

The Complete Works of
APOLLONIUS OF RHODES



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Apollonius of Rhodes

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The Complete Works of
APOLLONIUS OF RHODES

(fl. 3rd century BC)



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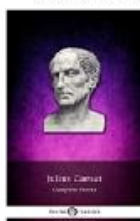
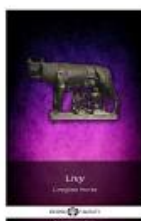
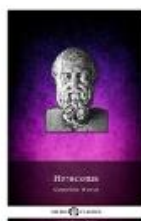
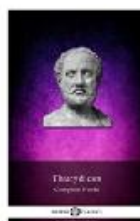
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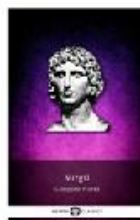


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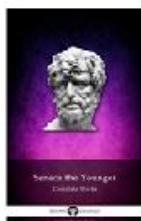
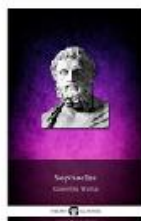
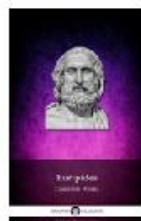
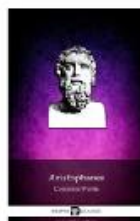
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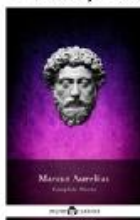
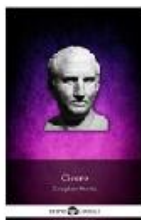
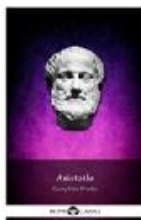
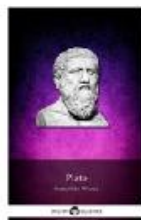
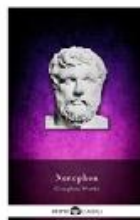
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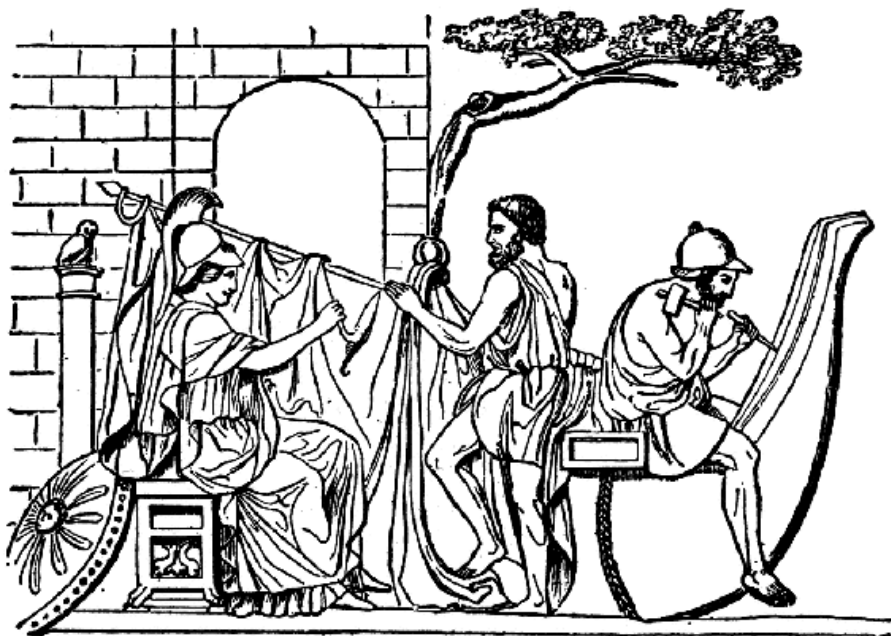
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The Complete Works of
APOLLONIUS OF RHODES



By Delphi Classics, 2014

The Translation



Ruins at Alexandria — most sources indicate that the Egyptian city was Apollonius' birthplace



*Harbour near the site of Naucratis, a city of Ancient Egypt, on the Canopic branch of the Nile
— Athenaeus and Aelian claimed that Apollonius came from Naucratis, 70 km south of
Alexandria.*

ARGONAUTICA



Translated by R. C. Seaton

Composed in the 3rd century BC, Ἀργοναυτικά is an epic poem of four books, which remains the only extant Hellenistic epic. It concerns the myth of the voyage of Jason and the Argonauts to retrieve the Golden Fleece from Colchis, the remote region in the Southern Caucasus, on the eastern coast of the Black Sea. Written during the age of the great Library of Alexandria, Apollonius' epic incorporates his researches in geography, ethnography, comparative religion and Homeric literature. However, his greatest contribution to the epic tradition lies in his development of the love between Jason, the hero, and Medea, the heroine, which some literary historians have gone on identify as the first fully-developed love story of Western literature. The epic had a profound impact on Latin poetry, after being translated by Varro Atacinus and imitated by Valerius Flaccus. Apollonius' work influenced Catullus and Ovid and it provided Virgil with a model for his masterpiece, the *Aeneid*, particularly with the love scenes concerning Aeneas and Dido.

The composing of the *Argonautica* in third century Greece was a bold venture for Apollonius, one of the major scholars of the Alexandrian period, who was to meet severe criticism from the demanding tastes of his contemporaries. According to some accounts, a hostile reception even led to his exile to Rhodes. The literary fashion was for small, meticulous poems, featuring displays of erudition, as represented by the works of Callimachus, Apollonius' former teacher. In adapting the epic genre to this audience, Apollonius had set about the foundations for what would be known in later times as the romance novel, which literary genre employed the use of narrative techniques like the interior monologue, where the author directly identifies with a character's thoughts and feelings.

At that time, Callimachus had set the standards for Hellenistic aesthetics in poetry and, according to ancient sources, he became engulfed in a bitter literary feud with Apollonius. However, modern scholars generally dismiss these sources as unreliable and point to similarities in the poetry of the two men. Callimachus, for example, composed a book of verses dealing with *aitia*, the mythical origins of contemporary phenomena. According to one survey, there are eighty *aitia* in *Argonautica*.

The first book of the *Argonautica* opens with a Homeric invocation to Apollo, briefly recounting his prophetic warning to Pelias, King of Iolcus, that his downfall will be the work of a man with only one sandal. Jason is presented as this person, having lost a sandal while crossing a swollen stream. Therefore, Pelias has entrusted Jason with a desperate mission to Colchis to

bring back the fabled Golden Fleece — namely, an impossible task. In Greek mythology, the Golden Fleece, originally from a winged ram, was a symbol of authority and kingship. As the epic begins, a ship, called the Argo, has already been constructed by Argus, a shipwright working under Athena's instructions. Meanwhile, a band of heroes have arrived to man the ship and join in the venture.

Jason urges the heroes to elect a leader for the voyage. They all nominate Heracles, who in turn insists on Jason being the leader and the others submit to his choice. Delighted with his election, Jason orders the crew to haul the ship down to the water. The Argo is then moored for the night so that they can enjoy a farewell feast. Jason however becomes withdrawn and silent. One of the heroes, Idas, accuses him of cowardice and the prophet Idmon in turn accuses Idas of drunken vainglory. A fight almost breaks out, but Orpheus calms everyone with a song. At dawn, Tiphys, the ship's pilot, rouses the crew. The ship itself calls to them, since its keel includes a magical beam of Dodonian oak. Jason sheds a tear as they pull away from his home, Iolcus. The oars churn up the sea, wielded by heroic hands in time to Orpheus' stirring music.

The first major port they reach is Lemnos, where the women, led by their Queen Hypsipyle, have recently murdered all their menfolk, including husbands, sons, brothers and fathers. The all-female parliament decides that the heroes should be encouraged to stay. Jason, as leader, is summoned and Hypsipyle falls in love with him at once, as he settles into the palace. His crew is taken home by the other women, all except Heracles and some comrades, who prefer to stay with the ship. Thus the voyage is postponed day after day. Finally, Heracles assembles all the Argonauts for a serious talk. He tells them that they are not behaving like heroes and that the Golden Fleece is in danger of being forgotten. Thus reprimanded, they prepare to leave. Jason tells the queen to entrust their son to his parents, if she bears him one and he is the first on board as the Argo sets sail once more.

Various adventures happen to the heroes until they finally arrive at Colchis in the third book, when the goddesses Hera and Athena retire to a private room on Olympus to consider in secret how best to aid Jason. Hera decides that the daughter of the Colchian king might prove useful if she could be made to fall in love with Jason. Hera then suggests enlisting the help of Aphrodite and her son Eros, who is eventually encouraged to fire one of his love-inducing arrows at Medea, which leads to literature's first detailed depiction of a relationship between two lovers.

The *Argonautica* is largely modelled on Homer's epics, with many similarities between the plots. When Jason first meets Hypsipyle in Book I, he wears a cloak made for him by Athena, embroidered with various scenes alluding to tragic women that Homer's *Odysseus* met in Hades (Odyssey 11.225–380). This Homeric echo has ominous connotations, prefiguring Jason's betrayal of Hypsipyle and Medea. Also, there is the return journey of

Book IV, which offers many parallels in the *Odyssey* – Scylla, Charybdis, the Sirens and Circe, all hazards that Odysseus must negotiate. The *Argonautica* is notable too for the high number of verses and phrases imitating Homer and for the manner in which it reproduces the linguistic peculiarities of old epic poetry, in syntax, metre, vocabulary and grammar. Apollonius is often regarded as the most Homeric of all the poets whose work has come down from the Hellenistic age, when Homeric scholarship flourished and almost all poets responded to Homer's influence.

However, even though modelled on the Homeric epic, the *Argonautica* is much shorter than Homer's epics, with Apollonius' four books totalling fewer than 6,000 lines, whilst the *Iliad* runs to more than 15,000 lines. Apollonius may have been influenced here by Callimachus' famed advocacy of brevity— 'A big book is a big misfortune' as the poet is best remembered for claiming in one of his few preserved fragments. Apollonius could also have been responding to Aristotle's demand for "poems on a smaller scale than the old epics, and answering in length to the group of tragedies presented at a single sitting", since theatre audiences at the Dionysia typically sat through four plays per day and the four books of the *Argonautica* are about the same total length.

One strikingly unhomeric feature of the epic is the characterisation of the central hero. Jason is by no means a traditional epic hero and the contrast between him and Heracles can be interpreted as a distinction between Homeric and Callimachean poetics. Jason is depicted in a far more realistic manner, than the portrayal of such figures in Homer's epics. First of all, Jason is only chosen as the leader of the Argo because the superior Heracles declines the honour. Other unconventional features include: how in trials of strength Jason is often subordinate to his comrades; he is often dependent on magical charms to overcome problems and foes; he is passive in the face of crisis and timid and diffident before trouble; Jason is surprisingly contemplative and modern in his humanity; he is tearful at insult, easily despondent and surprisingly devious in his harsh treatment of Medea. Recent scholarship leads to the conclusion that the *Argonautica* was a successful and fundamental renewal of the Homeric epic, expressed in terms of Callimachean aesthetics, whilst producing an entirely new approach for the epic genre: the realistic depiction of characters and the depth of emotions we experience as humans.



Athena helps build the Argo, as depicted on a Roman moulded terracotta plaque, c. 50 AD



Map showing the route taken by the Argo, 1624

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Medea and Pelias, as depicted on an Athenian red-figure clay vase, c. 470 BC, British Museum



The Douris cup, depicting Jason being regurgitated by the dragon protecting the fleece

BOOK I.

[1] Beginning with thee, O Phoebus, I will recount the famous deeds of men of old, who, at the behest of King Pelias, down through the mouth of Pontus and between the Cyanean rocks, sped well-benched Argo in quest of the golden fleece.

[5] Such was the oracle that Pelias heard, that a hateful doom awaited him to be slain at the prompting of the man whom he should see coming forth from the people with but one sandal. And no long time after, in accordance with that true report, Jason crossed the stream of wintry Anaurus on foot, and saved one sandal from the mire, but the other he left in the depths held back by the flood. And straightway he came to Pelias to share the banquet which the king was offering to his father Poseidon and the rest of the gods, though he paid no honour to Pelasgian Hera. Quickly the king saw him and pondered, and devised for him the toil of a troublous voyage, in order that on the sea or among strangers he might lose his home-return.

[18] The ship, as former bards relate, Argus wrought by the guidance of Athena. But now I will tell the lineage and the names of the heroes, and of the long sea-paths and the deeds they wrought in their wanderings; may the Muses be the inspirers of my song!

[23] First then let us name Orpheus whom once Calliope bare, it is said, wedded to Thracian Oeagrus, near the Pimpleian height. Men say that he by the music of his songs charmed the stubborn rocks upon the mountains and the course of rivers. And the wild oak-trees to this day, tokens of that magic strain, that grow at Zone on the Thracian shore, stand in ordered ranks close together, the same which under the charm of his lyre he led down from Pieria. Such then was Orpheus whom Aeson's son welcomed to share his toils, in obedience to the behest of Cheiron, Orpheus ruler of Bistonian Pieria.

[35] Straightway came Asterion, whom Cometes begat by the waters of eddying Apidanus; he dwelt at Peiresiae near the Phylleian mount, where mighty Apidanus and bright Enipeus join their streams, coming together from afar.

[40] Next to them from Larisa came Polyphemus, son of Eilatus, who aforetime among the mighty Lapithae, when they were arming themselves against the Centaurs, fought in his younger days; now his limbs were grown heavy with age, but his martial spirit still remained, even as of old.

[45] Nor was Iphiclus long left behind in Phylace, the uncle of Aeson's son; for Aeson had wedded his sister Alcimedede, daughter of Phylacus: his kinship with her bade him be numbered in the host.

[49] Nor did Admetus, the lord of Pherae rich in sheep, stay behind beneath the peak of the Chalcodonian mount.

[51] Nor at Alope stayed the sons of Hermes, rich in corn-land, well skilled in craftiness, Erytus and Echion, and with them on their departure their

kinsman Aethalides went as the third; him near the streams of Amphrysus Eupolemeia bare, the daughter of Myrmidon, from Phthia; the two others were sprung from Antianeira, daughter of Menetes.

[57] From rich Gyrton came Coronus, son of Caeneus, brave, but not braver than his father. For bards relate that Caeneus though still living perished at the hands of the Centaurs, when apart from other chiefs he routed them; and they, rallying against him, could neither bend nor slay him; but unconquered and unflinching he passed beneath the earth, overwhelmed by the downrush of massy pines.

[65] There came too Titaresian Mopsus, whom above all men the son of Leto taught the augury of birds; and Eurydamas the son of Ctimenus; he dwelt at Dolopian Ctimene near the Xynian lake.

[69] Moreover Actor sent his son Menoetius from Opus that he might accompany the chiefs.

[71] Eurytion followed and strong Eribotes, one the son of Teleon, the other of Irus, Actor's son; the son of Teleon renowned Eribotes, and of Irus Eurytion. A third with them was Oileus, peerless in courage and well skilled to attack the flying foe, when they break their ranks.

[77] Now from Euboea came Canthus eager for the quest, whom Canethus son of Abas sent; but he was not destined to return to Cerinthus. For fate had ordained that he and Mopsus, skilled in the seer's art, should wander and perish in the furthest ends of Libya. For no ill is too remote for mortals to incur, seeing that they buried them in Libya, as far from the Colchians as is the space that is seen between the setting and the rising of the sun.

[86] To him Clytius and Iphitus joined themselves, the warders of Oechalia, sons of Eurytus the ruthless, Eurytus, to whom the Far-shooting god gave his bow; but he had no joy of the gift; for of his own choice he strove even with the giver.

[90] After them came the sons of Aeacus, not both together, nor from the same spot; for they settled far from Aegina in exile, when in their folly they had slain their brother Phoeus. Telamon dwelt in the Attic island; but Peleus departed and made his home in Phthia.

[95] After them from Cecropia came warlike Butes, son of brave Teleon, and Phalerus of the ashen spear. Alcon his father sent him forth; yet no other sons had he to care for his old age and livelihood. But him, his well-beloved and only son, he sent forth that amid bold heroes he might shine conspicuous. But Theseus, who surpassed all the sons of Erechtheus, an unseen bond kept beneath the land of Taenarus, for he had followed that path with Peirithous; assuredly both would have lightened for all the fulfilment of their toil.

[105] Tiphys, son of Hagnias, left the Siphacian people of the Thespians, well skilled to foretell the rising wave on the broad sea, and well skilled to infer from sun and star the stormy winds and the time for sailing. Tritonian Athena herself urged him to join the band of chiefs, and he came among them a welcome comrade. She herself too fashioned the swift ship; and with her

Argus, son of Arestor, wrought it by her counsels. Wherefore it proved the most excellent of all ships that have made trial of the sea with oars.

[115] After them came Phlias from Araethyrea, where he dwelt in affluence by the favour of his father Dionysus, in his home by the springs of Asopus.

[118] From Argos came Talaus and Areius, sons of Bias, and mighty Leodocus, all of whom Pero daughter of Neleus bare; on her account the Aeolid Melampus endured sore affliction in the steading of Iphiclus.

[122] Nor do we learn that Heracles of the mighty heart disregarded the eager summons of Aeson's son. But when he heard a report of the heroes' gathering and had reached Lyrceian Argos from Arcadia by the road along which he carried the boar alive that fed in the thickets of Lampeia, near the vast Erymanthian swamp, the boar bound with chains he put down from his huge shoulders at the entrance to the market-place of Mycenae; and himself of his own will set out against the purpose of Eurystheus; and with him went Hylas, a brave comrade, in the flower of youth, to bear his arrows and to guard his bow.

[133] Next to him came a scion of the race of divine Danaus, Nauplius. He was the son of Clytonaeus son of Naubolus; Naubolus was son of Lernus; Lernus we know was the son of Proetus son of Nauplius; and once Amymone daughter of Danaus, wedded to Poseidon, bare Nauplius, who surpassed all men in naval skill.

[139] Idmon came last of all them that dwelt at Argos, for though he had learnt his own fate by augury, he came, that the people might not grudge him fair renown. He was not in truth the son of Abas, but Leto's son himself begat him to be numbered among the illustrious Aeolids; and himself taught him the art of prophecy — to pay heed to birds and to observe the signs of the burning sacrifice.

[146] Moreover Aetolian Leda sent from Sparta strong Polydeuces and Castor, skilled to guide swift-footed steeds; these her dearly-loved sons she bare at one birth in the house of Tyndareus; nor did she forbid their departure; for she had thoughts worthy of the bride of Zeus.

[151] The sons of Aphareus, Lynceus and proud Idas, came from Arene, both exulting in their great strength; and Lynceus too excelled in keenest sight, if the report is true that that hero could easily direct his sight even beneath the earth.

[156] And with them Neleian Periclymenus set out to come, eldest of all the sons of godlike Neleus who were born at Pylos; Poseidon had given him boundless strength and granted him that whatever shape he should crave during the fight, that he should take in the stress of battle.

[161] Moreover from Arcadia came Amphidamas and Cepheus, who inhabited Tegea and the allotment of Apheidas, two sons of Aldus; and Ancaeus followed them as the third, whom his father Lycurgus sent, the brother older than both. But he was left in the city to care for Aleus now growing old, while he gave his son to join his brothers. Antaeus went clad in

the skin of a Maenalian bear, and wielding in his right hand a huge two-edged battleaxe. For his armour his grandsire had hidden in the house's innermost recess, to see if he might by some means still stay his departure.

[172] There came also Augeias, whom fame declared to be the son of Helios; he reigned over the Eleans, glorying in his wealth; and greatly he desired to behold the Colchian land and Aeetes himself the ruler of the Colchians.

[176] Asterius and Amphion, sons of Hyperasius, came from Achaean Pellene, which once Pelles their grandsire founded on the brows of Aegialus.

[179] After them from Taenarus came Euphemus whom, most swift-footed of men, Europe, daughter of mighty Tityos, bare to Poseidon. He was wont to skim the swell of the grey sea, and wetted not his swift feet, but just dipping the tips of his toes was borne on the watery path.

[185] Yea, and two other sons of Poseidon came; one Erginus, who left the citadel of glorious Miletus, the other proud Ancaeus, who left Parthenia, the seat of Imbrasion Hera; both boasted their skill in seacraft and in war.

[190] After them from Calydon came the son of Oeneus, strong Meleagrus, and Laocoon — Laocoon the brother of Oeneus, though not by the same mother, for a serving-woman bare him; him, now growing old, Oeneus sent to guard his son: thus Meleagrus, still a youth, entered the bold band of heroes. No other had come superior to him, I ween, except Heracles, if for one year more he had tarried and been nurtured among the Aetolians. Yea, and his uncle, well skilled to fight whether with the javelin or hand to hand, Iphiclus son of Thestius, bare him company on his way.

[202] With him came Palaemonius, son of Olenian Lernus, of Lernus by repute, but his birth was from Hephaestus; and so he was crippled in his feet, but his bodily frame and his valour no one would dare to scorn. Wherefore he was numbered among all the chiefs, winning fame for Jason.

[207] From the Phocians came Iphitus sprung from Naubolus son of Ornytus; once he had been his host when Jason went to Pytho to ask for a response concerning his voyage; for there he welcomed him in his own hails.

[221] Next came Zetes and Calais, sons of Boreas, whom once Oreithyia, daughter of Erechtheus, bare to Boreas on the verge of wintry Thrace; thither it was that Thracian Boreas snatched her away from Cecropia as she was whirling in the dance, hard by Hissus' stream. And, carrying her far off, to the spot that men called the rock of Sarpedon, near the river Erginus, he wrapped her in dark clouds and forced her to his will. There they were making their dusky wings quiver upon their ankles on both sides as they rose, a great wonder to behold, wings that gleamed with golden scales: and round their backs from the top of the head and neck, hither and thither, their dark tresses were being shaken by the wind.

[224] No, nor had Acastus son of mighty Pelias himself any will to stay behind in the palace of his brave sire, nor Argus, helper of the goddess Athena; but they too were ready to be numbered in the host.

[228] So many then were the helpers who assembled to join the son of

Aeson. All the chiefs the dwellers thereabout called Minyae, for the most and the bravest avowed that they were sprung from the blood of the daughters of Minyas; thus Jason himself was the son of Alcimede who was born of Clymene the daughter of Minyas.

[234] Now when all things had been made ready by the thralls, all things that fully-equipped ships are furnished withal when men's business leads them to voyage across the sea, then the heroes took their way through the city to the ship where it lay on the strand that men call Magnesian Pagasae; and a crowd of people hastening rushed together; but the heroes shone like gleaming stars among the clouds; and each man as he saw them speeding along with their armour would say: "King Zeus, what is the purpose of Pelias? Whither is he driving forth from the Panachaeon land so great a host of heroes? On one day they would waste the palace of Aeetes with baleful fire, should he not yield them the fleece of his own goodwill. But the path is not to be shunned, the toil is hard for those who venture."

[247] Thus they spake here and there throughout the city; but the women often raised their hands to the sky in prayer to the immortals to grant a return, their hearts' desire. And one with tears thus lamented to her fellow: "Wretched Alcimede, evil has come to thee at last though late, thou hast not ended with splendour of life. Aeson too, ill-fated man! Surely better had it been for him, if he were lying beneath the earth, enveloped in his shroud, still unconscious of bitter toils. Would that the dark wave, when the maiden Helle perished, had overwhelmed Phrixus too with the ram; but the dire portent even sent forth a human voice, that it might cause to Alcimede sorrows and countless pains hereafter."

[261] Thus the women spake at the departure of the heroes. And now many thralls, men and women, were gathered together, and his mother, smitten with grief for Jason. And a bitter pang seized every woman's heart; and with them groaned the father in baleful old age, lying on his bed, closely wrapped round. But the hero straightway soothed their pain, encouraging them, and bade the thralls take up his weapons for war; and they in silence with downcast looks took them up. And even as the mother had thrown her arms about her son, so she clung, weeping without stint, as a maiden all alone weeps, falling fondly on the neck of her hoary nurse, a maid who has now no others to care for her, but she drags on a weary life under a stepmother, who maltreats her continually with ever fresh insults, and as she weeps, her heart within her is bound fast with misery, nor can she sob forth all the groans that struggle for utterance; so without stint wept Alcimede straining her son in her arms, and in her yearning grief spake as follows: "Would that on that day when, wretched woman that I am, I heard King Pelias proclaim his evil behest, I had straightway given up my life and forgotten my cares, so that thou thyself, my son, with thine own hands, mightest have buried me; for that was the only wish left me still to be fulfilled by time, all the other rewards for thy nurture have I long enjoyed. Now I, once so admired among Achaean women, shall

be left behind like a bondwoman in my empty halls, pining away, ill-fated one, for love of thee, thee on whose account I had aforetime so much splendour and renown, my only son for whom I loosed my virgin zone first and last. For to me beyond others the goddess Eileithyia grudged abundant offspring. Alas for my folly! Not once, not even in nay dreams did I forebode this, that the flight of Phrixus would bring me woe."

[292] Thus with moaning she wept, and her handmaidens, standing by, lamented; but Jason spake gently to her with comforting words: "Do not, I pray thee, mother, store up bitter sorrows overmuch, for thou wilt not redeem me from evil by tears, but wilt still add grief to grief. For unseen are the woes that the gods mete out to mortals; be strong to endure thy share of them though with grief in thy heart; take courage from the promises of Athena, and from the answers of the gods (for very favourable oracles has Phoebus given), and then from the help of the chieftains. But do thou remain here, quiet among thy handmaids, and be not a bird of ill omen to the ship; and thither my clansmen and thralls will follow me."

[306] He spake, and started forth to leave the house. And as Apollo goes forth from some fragrant shrine to divine Delos or Claros or Pytho or to broad Lyeia near the stream of Xanthus, in such beauty moved Jason through the throng of people; and a cry arose as they shouted together. And there met him aged Iphias, priestess of Artemis guardian of the city, and kissed his right hand, but she had not strength to say a word, for all her eagerness, as the crowd rushed on, but she was left there by the wayside, as the old are left by the young, and he passed on and was gone afar.

[317] Now when he had left the well-built streets of the city, he came to the beach of Pagasae, where his comrades greeted him as they stayed together near the ship Argo. And he stood at the entering in, and they were gathered to meet him. And they perceived Aeastus and Argus coming from the city, and they marvelled when they saw them hasting with all speed, despite the will of Pelias. The one, Argus, son of Arestor, had cast round his shoulders the hide of a bull reaching to his feet, with the black hair upon it, the other, a fair mantle of double fold, which his sister Pelopeia had given him. Still Jason forebore from asking them about each point but bade all be seated for an assembly. And there, upon the folded sails and the mast as it lay on the ground, they all took their seats in order. And among them with goodwill spake Aeson's son: "All the equipment that a ship needs for all is in due order — lies ready for our departure. Therefore we will make no long delay in our sailing for these things' sake, when the breezes but blow fair. But, friends, — for common to all is our return to Hellas hereafter, and common to all is our path to the land of Aeetes — now therefore with ungrudging heart choose the bravest to be our leader, who shall be careful for everything, to take upon him our quarrels and covenants with strangers."

[341] Thus he spake; and the young heroes turned their eyes towards bold Heracles sitting in their midst, and with one shout they all enjoined upon him

to be their leader; but he, from the place where he sat, stretched forth his right hand and said: "Let no one offer this honour to me. For I will not consent, and I will forbid any other to stand up. Let the hero who brought us together, himself be the leader of the host."

[348] Thus he spake with high thoughts, and they assented, as Heracles bade; and warlike Jason himself rose up, glad at heart, and thus addressed the eager throng: "If ye entrust your glory to my care, no longer as before let our path be hindered. Now at last let us propitiate Phoebus with sacrifice and straightway prepare a feast. And until my thralls come, the overseers of my steading, whose care it is to choose out oxen from the herd and drive them hither, we will drag down the ship to the sea, and do ye place all the tackling within, and draw lots for the benches for rowing. Meantime let us build upon the beach an altar to Apollo Embasius who by an oracle promised to point out and show me the paths of the sea, if by sacrifice to him I should begin my venture for King Pelias."

[363] He spake, and was the first to turn to the work, and they stood up in obedience to him; and they heaped their garments, one upon the other, on a smooth stone, which the sea did not strike with its waves, but the stormy surge had cleansed it long before. First of all, by the command of Argus, they strongly girded the ship with a rope well twisted within, stretching it tight on each side, in order that the planks might be well compacted by the bolts and might withstand the opposing force of the surge. And they quickly dug a trench as wide as the space the ship covered, and at the prow as far into the sea as it would run when drawn down by their hands. And they ever dug deeper in front of the stem, and in the furrow laid polished rollers; and inclined the ship down upon the first rollers, that so she might glide and be borne on by them. And above, on both sides, reversing the oars, they fastened them round the thole-pins, so as to project a cubit's space. And the heroes themselves stood on both sides at the oars in a row, and pushed forward with chest and hand at once. And then Tiphys leapt on board to urge the youths to push at the right moment; and calling on them he shouted loudly; and they at once, leaning with all their strength, with one push started the ship from her place, and strained with their feet, forcing her onward; and Pelian Argo followed swiftly; and they on each side shouted as they rushed on. And then the rollers groaned under the sturdy keel as they were chafed, and round them rose up a dark smoke owing to the weight, and she glided into the sea; but the heroes stood there and kept dragging her back as she sped onward. And round the thole-pins they fitted the oars, and in the ship they placed the mast and the well-made sails and the stores.

[394] Now when they had carefully paid heed to everything, first they distributed the benches by lot, two men occupying one seat; but the middle bench they chose for Heracles and Ancaeus apart from the other heroes, Ancaeus who dwelt in Tegea. For them alone they left the middle bench just as it was and not by lot; and with one consent they entrusted Tiphys with

guarding the helm of the well-stemmed ship.

[402] Next, piling up shingle near the sea, they raised there an altar on the shore to Apollo, under the name of Actius and Embasius, and quickly spread above it logs of dried olive-wood. Meantime the herdsmen of Aeson's son had driven before them from the herd two steers. These the younger comrades dragged near the altars, and the others brought lustral water and barley meal, and Jason prayed, calling on Apollo the god of his fathers: "Hear, O King, that dwellest in Pagasae and the city Aesonis, the city called by my father's name, thou who didst promise me, when I sought thy oracle at Pytho, to show the fulfilment and goal of my journey, for thou thyself hast been the cause of my venture; now do thou thyself guide the ship with my comrades safe and sound, thither and back again to Hellas. Then in thy honour hereafter we will lay again on thy altar the bright offerings of bulls — all of us who return; and other gifts in countless numbers I will bring to Pytho and Ortygia. And now, come, Far-darter, accept this sacrifice at our hands, which first of all we have offered thee for this ship on our embarkation; and grant, O King, that with a prosperous weird I may loose the hawsers, relying on thy counsel, and may the breeze blow softly with which we shall sail over the sea in fair weather."

[425] He spake, and with his prayer cast the barley meal. And they two girded themselves to slay the steers, proud Ancaeus and Heracles. The latter with his club smote one steer mid-head on the brow, and falling in a heap on the spot, it sank to the ground; and Ancaeus struck the broad neck of the other with his axe of bronze, and shore through the mighty sinews; and it fell prone on both its horns. Their comrades quickly severed the victims' throats, and flayed the hides: they sundered the joints and carved the flesh, then cut out the sacred thigh bones, and covering them all together closely with fat burnt them upon cloven wood. And Aeson's son poured out pure libations, and Idmon rejoiced beholding the flame as it gleamed on every side from the sacrifice, and the smoke of it mounting up with good omen in dark spiral columns; and quickly he spake outright the will of Leto's son: "For you it is the will of heaven and destiny that ye shall return here with the fleece; but meanwhile both going and returning, countless trials await you. But it is my lot, by the hateful decree of a god, to die somewhere afar off on the mainland of Asia. Thus, though I learnt my fate from evil omens even before now, I have left my fatherland to embark on the ship, that so after my embarking fair fame may be left me in my house."

[448] Thus he spake; and the youths hearing the divine utterance rejoiced at their return, but grief seized them for the fate of Idmon. Now at the hour when the sun passes his noon-tide halt and the ploughlands are just being shadowed by the rocks, as the sun slopes towards the evening dusk, at that hour all the heroes spread leaves thickly upon the sand and lay down in rows in front of the hoary surf-line; and near them were spread vast stores of viands and sweet wine, which the cupbearers had drawn off in pitchers; afterwards they told tales one to another in turn, such as youths often tell when at the feast and the

bowl they take delightful pastime, and insatiable insolence is far away. But here the son of Aeson, all helpless, was brooding over each event in his mind, like one oppressed with thought. And Idas noted him and assailed him with loud voice: "Son of Aeson, what is this plan thou art turning over in mind. Speak out thy thought in the midst. Does fear come on and master thee, fear, that confounds cowards? Be witness now my impetuous spear, wherewith in wars I win renown beyond all others (nor does Zeus aid me so much as my own spear), that no woe will be fatal, no venture will be unachieved, while Idas follows, even though a god should oppose thee. Such a helpmeet am I that thou bringest from Arene."

[472] He spake, and holding a brimming goblet in both hands drank off the unmixed sweet wine; and his lips and dark cheeks were drenched with it; and all the heroes clamoured together and Idmon spoke out openly: "Vain wretch, thou art devising destruction for thyself before the time. Does the pure wine cause thy bold heart to swell in thy breast to thy ruin, and has it set thee on to dishonour the gods? Other words of comfort there are with which a man might encourage his comrade; but thou hast spoken with utter recklessness. Such taunts, the tale goes, did the sons of Aloeus once blurt out against the blessed gods, and thou dost no wise equal them in valour; nevertheless they were both slain by the swift arrows of Leto's son, mighty though they were."

[485] Thus he spake, and Aphareian Iclas laughed out, loud and long, and eyeing him askance replied with biting words: "Come now, tell me this by thy prophetic art, whether for me too the gods will bring to pass such doom as thy father promised for the sons of Aloeus. And bethink thee how thou wilt escape from my hands alive, if thou art caught making a prophecy vain as the idle wind."

[492] Thus in wrath Idas reviled him, and the strife would have gone further had not their comrades and Aeson's son himself with indignant cry restrained the contending chiefs; and Orpheus lifted his lyre in his left hand and made essay to sing.

[496] He sang how the earth, the heaven and the sea, once mingled together in one form, after deadly strife were separated each from other; and how the stars and the moon and the paths of the sun ever keep their fixed place in the sky; and how the mountains rose, and how the resounding rivers with their nymphs came into being and all creeping things. And he sang how first of all Ophion and Eurynome, daughter of Ocean, held the sway of snowy Olympus, and how through strength of arm one yielded his prerogative to Cronos and the other to Rhea, and how they fell into the waves of Ocean; but the other two meanwhile ruled over the blessed Titan-gods, while Zeus, still a child and with the thoughts of a child, dwelt in the Dictaeon cave; and the earthborn Cyclopes had not yet armed him with the bolt, with thunder and lightning; for these things give renown to Zeus.

[512] He ended, and stayed his lyre and divine voice. But though he had ceased they still bent forward with eagerness all hushed to quiet, with ears

intent on the enchanting strain; such a charm of song had he left behind in their hearts. Not long after they mixed libations in honour of Zeus, with pious rites as is customary, and poured them upon the burning tongues, and bethought them of sleep in the darkness.

[519] Now when gleaming dawn with bright eyes beheld the lofty peaks of Pelion, and the calm headlands were being drenched as the sea was ruffled by the winds, then Tiphys awoke from sleep; and at once he roused his comrades to go on board and make ready the oars. And a strange cry did the harbour of Pagasae utter, yea and Pelian Argo herself, urging them to set forth. For in her a beam divine had been laid which Athena had brought from an oak of Dodona and fitted in the middle of the stem. And the heroes went to the benches one after the other, as they had previously assigned for each to row in his place, and took their seats in due order near their fighting gear. In the middle sat Antaeus and mighty Heracles, and near him he laid his club, and beneath his tread the ship's keel sank deep. And now the hawsers were being slipped and they poured wine on the sea. But Jason with tears held his eyes away from his fatherland. And just as youths set up a dance in honour of Phoebus either in Pytho or haply in Ortygia, or by the waters of Ismenus, and to the sound of the lyre round his altar all together in time beat the earth with swiftly-moving feet; so they to the sound of Orpheus' lyre smote with their oars the rushing sea-water, and the surge broke over the blades; and on this side and on that the dark brine seethed with foam, boiling terribly through the might of the sturdy heroes. And their arms shone in the sun like flame as the ship sped on; and ever their wake gleamed white far behind, like a path seen over a green plain. On that day all the gods looked down from heaven upon the ship and the might of the heroes, half-divine, the bravest of men then sailing the sea; and on the topmost heights the nymphs of Pelion wondered as they beheld the work of Itonian Athena, and the heroes themselves wielding the oars. And there came down from the mountain-top to the sea Chiron, son of Philyra, and where the white surf broke he dipped his feet, and, often waving with his broad hand, cried out to them at their departure, "Good speed and a sorrowless home-return!" And with him his wife, bearing Peleus' son Achilles on her arm, showed the child to his dear father.

[559] Now when they had left the curving shore of the harbour through the cunning and counsel of prudent Tiphys son of Hagnias, who skilfully handled the well-polished helm that he might guide them steadfastly, then at length they set up the tall mast in the mastbox, and secured it with forestays, drawing them taut on each side, and from it they let down the sail when they had hauled it to the top-mast. And a breeze came down piping shrilly; and upon the deck they fastened the ropes separately round the well-polished pins, and ran quietly past the long Tisaeian headland. And for them the son of Oeagrus touched his lyre and sang in rhythmical song of Artemis, saviour of ships, child of a glorious sire, who hath in her keeping those peaks by the sea, and the land of Iolcos; and the fishes came darting through the deep sea, great

mixed with small, and followed gambolling along the watery paths. And as when in the track of the shepherd, their master, countless sheep follow to the fold that have fed to the full of grass, and he goes before gaily piping a shepherd's strain on Iris shrill reed; so these fishes followed; and a chasing breeze ever bore the ship onward.

[580] And straightway the misty land of the Pelasgians, rich in cornfields, sank out of sight, and ever speeding onward they passed the rugged sides of Pelion; and the Sepian headland sank away, and Sciathus appeared in the sea, and far off appeared Piresiae and the calm shore of Magnesia on the mainland and the tomb of Dolops; here then in the evening, as the wind blew against them, they put to land, and paying honour to him at nightfall burnt sheep as victims, while the sea was tossed by the swell: and for two days they lingered on the shore, but on the third day they put forth the ship, spreading on high the broad sail. And even now men call that beach Aphetæ of Argo.

[592] Thence going forward they ran past Meliboea, escaping a stormy beach and surf-line. And in the morning they saw Homole close at hand leaning on the sea, and skirted it, and not long after they were about to pass by the outfall of the river Amyrus. From there they beheld Eurymenæ and the seawashed ravines of Ossa and Olympus; next they reached the slopes of Pallene, beyond the headland of Canastra, running all night with the wind. And at dawn before them as they journeyed rose Athos, the Thracian mountain, which with its topmost peak overshadows Lemnos, even as far as Myrine, though it lies as far off as the space that a well-trimmed merchantship would traverse up to mid-day. For them on that day, till darkness fell, the breeze blew exceedingly fresh, and the sails of the ship strained to it. But with the setting of the sun the wind left them, and it was by the oars that they reached Lemnos, the Sintian isle.

[609] Here the whole of the men of the people together had been ruthlessly slain through the transgressions of the women in the year gone by. For the men had rejected their lawful wives, loathing them, and had conceived a fierce passion for captive maids whom they themselves brought across the sea from their forays in Thrace; for the terrible wrath of Cypris came upon them, because for a long time they had grudged her the honours due. O hapless women, and insatiate in jealousy to their own ruin! Not their husbands alone with the captives did they slay on account of the marriage-bed, but all the males at the same time, that they might thereafter pay no retribution for the grim murder. And of all the women, Hypsipyle alone spared her aged father Thoas, who was king over the people; and she sent him in a hollow chest, to drift over the sea, if haply he should escape. And fishermen dragged him to shore at the island of Oenoe, formerly Oenoe, but afterwards called Sicinus from Sicinus, whom the water-nymph Oenoe bore to Thoas. Now for all the women to tend kine, to don armour of bronze, and to cleave with the plough-share the wheat-bearing fields, was easier than the works of Athena, with which they were busied aforetime. Yet for all that did they often gaze over the

broad sea, in grievous fear against the Thracians' coming. So when they saw Argo being rowed near the island, straightway crowding in multitude from the gates of Myrine and clad in their harness of war, they poured forth to the beach like ravening Thyiades: for they deemed that the Thracians were come; and with them Hypsipyle, daughter of Thoas, donned her father's harness. And they streamed down speechless with dismay; such fear was wafted about them.

[640] Meantime from the ship the chiefs had sent Aethalides the swift herald, to whose care they entrusted their messages and the wand of Hermes, his sire, who had granted him a memory of all things, that never grew dim; and not even now, though he has entered the unspeakable whirlpools of Acheron, has forgetfulness swept over his soul, but its fixed doom is to be ever changing its abode; at one time to be numbered among the dwellers beneath the earth, at another to be in the light of the sun among living men. But why need I tell at length tales of Aethalides? He at that time persuaded Hypsipyle to receive the new-comers as the day was waning into darkness; nor yet at dawn did they loose the ship's hawsers to the breath of the north wind.

[653] Now the Lemnian women fared through the city and sat down to the assembly, for Hypsipyle herself had so bidden. And when they were all gathered together in one great throng straightway she spake among them with stirring words: "O friends, come let us grant these men gifts to their hearts' desire, such as it is fitting that they should take on ship-board, food and sweet wine, in order that they may steadfastly remain outside our towers, and may not, passing among us for need's sake, get to know us all too well, and so an evil report be widely spread; for we have wrought a terrible deed and in nowise will it be to their liking, should they learn it. Such is our counsel now, but if any of you can devise a better plan let her rise, for it was on this account that I summoned you hither."

[667] Thus she spake and sat upon her father's seat of stone, and then rose up her dear nurse Polyxo, for very age halting upon her withered feet, bowed over a staff, and she was eager to address them. Near her were seated four virgins, unwedded, crowned with white hair. And she stood in the midst of the assembly and from her bent back she feebly raised her neck and spake thus: "Gifts, as Hypsipyle herself wishes, let us send to the strangers, for it is better to give them. But for you what device have ye to get profit of your life if the Thracian host fall upon us, or some other foe, as often happens among men, even as now this company is come unforeseen? But if one of the blessed gods should turn this aside yet countless other woes, worse than battle, remain behind, when the aged women die off and ye younger ones, without children, reach hateful old age. How then will ye live, hapless ones? Will your oxen of their own accord yoke themselves for the deep plough-lands and draw the earth-cleaving share through the fallow, and forthwith, as the year comes round, reap the harvest? Assuredly, though the fates till now have shunned me in horror, I deem that in the coming year I shall put on the garment of earth,

when I have received my meed of burial even so as is right, before the evil days draw near. But I bid you who are younger give good heed to this. For now at your feet a way of escape lies open, if ye trust to the strangers the care of your homes and all your stock and your glorious city.”

[697] Thus she spake, and the assembly was filled with clamour. For the word pleased them. And after her straightway Hypsipyle rose up again, and thus spake in reply. “If this purpose please you all, now will I even send a messenger to the ship.”

[702] She spake and addressed Iphinoe close at hand: “Go, Iphinoe, and beg yonder man, whoever it is that leads this array, to come to our land that I may tell him a word that pleases the heart of my people, and bid the men themselves, if they wish, boldly enter the land and the city with friendly intent.”

[708] She spake, and dismissed the assembly, and thereafter started to return home. And so Iphinoe came to the Minyae; and they asked with what intent she had come among them. And quickly she addressed her questioners with all speed in these words: “The maiden Hypsipyle daughter of Thoas, sent me on my way here to you, to summon the captain of your ship, whoever he be, that she may tell him a word that pleases the heart of the people, and she bids yourselves, if ye wish it, straightway enter the land and the city with friendly intent.”

[717] Thus she spake and the speech of good omen pleased all. And they deemed that Thoas was dead and that his beloved daughter Hypsipyle was queen, and quickly they sent Jason on his way and themselves made ready to go.

[721] Now he had buckled round his shoulders a purple mantle of double fold, the work of the Tritonian goddess, which Pallas had given him when she first laid the keel-props of the ship Argo and taught him how to measure timbers with the rule. More easily wouldst thou cast thy eyes upon the sun at its rising than behold that blazing splendour. For indeed in the middle the fashion thereof was red, but at the ends it was all purple, and on each margin many separate devices had been skilfully inwoven.

[730] In it were the Cyclops seated at their imperishable work, forging a thunderbolt for King Zeus; by now it was almost finished in its brightness and still it wanted but one ray, which they were beating out with their iron hammers as it spurted forth a breath of raging flame.

[735] In it too were the twin sons of Antiope, daughter of Asopus, Amphion and Zethus, and Thebe still ungirt with towers was lying near, whose foundations they were just then laying in eager haste. Zethus on his shoulders was lifting the peak of a steep mountain, like a man toiling hard, and Amphion after him, singing loud and clear on his golden lyre, moved on, and a rock twice as large followed his footsteps.

[742] Next in order had been wrought Cytherea with drooping tresses, wielding the swift shield of Ares; and from her shoulder to her left arm the

fastening of her tunic was loosed beneath her breast; and opposite in the shield of bronze her image appeared clear to view as she stood.

[747] And in it there was a well-wooded pasturage of oxen; and about the oxen the Teleboae and the sons of Eleetryon were fighting; the one party defending themselves, the others, the Taphian raiders, longing to rob them; and the dewy meadow was drenched with their blood, and the many were overmastering the few herdsmen.

[752] And therein were fashioned two chariots, racing, and the one in front Pelops was guiding, as he shook the reins, and with him was Hippodameia at his side, and in pursuit Myrtilus urged his steeds, and with him Oenomaus had grasped his couched spear, but fell as the axle swerved and broke in the nave, while he was eager to pierce the back of Pelops.

[759] And in it was wrought Phoebus Apollo, a stripling not yet grown up, in the act of shooting at mighty Tityos who was boldly dragging his mother by her veil, Tityos whom glorious Elate bare, but Earth nursed him and gave him second birth.

[763] And in it was Phrixus the Minyan as though he were in very deed listening to the ram, while it was like one speaking. Beholding them thou wouldst be silent and wouldst cheat thy soul with the hope of hearing some wise speech from them, and long wouldst thou gaze with that hope.

[768] Such then were the gifts of the Tritonian goddess Athena. And in his right hand Jason held a fardarting spear, which Atalanta gave him once as a gift of hospitality in Maenalus as she met him gladly; for she eagerly desired to follow on that quest; but he himself of his own accord prevented the maid, for he feared bitter strife on account of her love.

[774] And he went on his way to the city like to a bright star, which maidens, pent up in new-built chambers, behold as it rises above their homes, and through the dark air it charms their eyes with its fair red gleam and the maid rejoices, love-sick for the youth who is far away amid strangers, for whom her parents are keeping her to be his bride; like to that star the hero trod the way to the city. And when they had passed within the gates and the city, the women of the people surged behind them, delighting in the stranger, but he with his eyes fixed on the ground fared straight on, till he reached the glorious palace of Hypsipyle; and when he appeared the maids opened the folding doors, fitted with well-fashioned panels. Here Iphinoe leading him quickly through a fair porch set him upon a shining seat opposite her mistress, but Hypsipyle turned her eyes aside and a blush covered her maiden cheeks, yet for all her modesty she addressed him with crafty words: "Stranger, why stay ye so long outside our towers? for the city is not inhabited by the men, but they, as sojourners, plough the wheat-bearing fields of the Thracian mainland. And I will tell out truly all our evil plight, that ye yourselves too may know it well. When my father Thoas reigned over the citizens, then our folk starting from their homes used to plunder from their ships the dwellings of the Thracians who live opposite, and they brought back hither measureless booty

and maidens too. But the counsel of the baneful goddess Cypris was working out its accomplishment, who brought upon them soul destroying infatuation. For they hated their lawful wives, and, yielding to their own mad folly, drove them from their homes; and they took to their beds the captives of their spear, cruel ones. Long in truth we endured it, if haply again, though late, they might change their purpose, but ever the bitter woe grew, twofold. And the lawful children were being dishonoured in their halls, and a bastard race was rising. And thus unmarried maidens and widowed mothers too wandered uncared for through the city; no father heeded his daughter ever so little even though he should see her done to death before his eyes at the hands of an insolent step-dame, nor did sons, as before, defend their mother against unseemly outrage; nor did brothers care at heart for their sister. But in their homes, in the dance, in the assembly and the banquet all their thought was only for their captive maidens; until some god put desperate courage in our hearts no more to receive our lords on their return from Thrace within our towers so that they might either heed the right or might depart and begone elsewhither, they and their captives. So they begged of us all the male children that were left in the city and went back to where even now they dwell on the snowy tilths of Thrace. Do ye therefore stay and settle with us; and shouldst thou desire to dwell here, and this finds favour with thee, assuredly thou shalt have the prerogative of my father Thoas; and I deem that thou wilt not scorn our land at all; for it is deepsoiled beyond all other islands that lie in the Aegean sea. But come now, return to the ship and relate my words to thy comrades, and stay not outside our city.”

[834] She spoke, glozing over the murder that had been wrought upon the men; and Jason addressed her in answer: “Hypsipyle, very dear to our hearts is the help we shall meet with, which thou grantest to us who need thee. And I will return again to the city when I have told everything in order due. But let the sovereignty of the island be thine; it is not in scorn I yield it up, but grievous trials urge me on.”

[842] He spake, and touched her right hand; and quickly he turned to go back: and round him the young maids on every side danced in countless numbers in their joy till he passed through the gates. And then they came to the shore in smooth-running wains, bearing with them many gifts, when now he had related from beginning to end the speech which Hypsipyle had spoken when she summoned them; and the maids readily led the men back to their homes for entertainment. For Cypris stirred in them a sweet desire, for the sake of Hephaestus of many counsels, in order that Lemnos might be again inhabited by men and not be ruined.

[843] Thereupon Aeson's son started to go to the royal home of Hypsipyle; and the rest went each his way as chance took them, all but Heracles; for he of his own will was left behind by the ship and a few chosen comrades with him. And straightway the city rejoiced with dances and banquets, being filled with the steam of sacrifice; and above all the immortals they propitiated with songs

and sacrifices the illustrious son of Hera and Cypris herself. And the sailing was ever delayed from one day to another; and long would they have lingered there, had not Heracles, gathering together his comrades apart from the women, thus addressed them with reproachful words: "Wretched men, does the murder of kindred keep us from our native land? Or is it in want of marriage that we have come hither from thence, in scorn of our countrywomen? Does it please us to dwell here and plough the rich soil of Lemnos? No fair renown shall we win by thus tarrying so long with stranger women; nor will some god seize and give us at our prayer a fleece that moves of itself. Let us then return each to his own; but him leave ye to rest all day long in the embrace of Hypsipyle until he has peopled Lemnos with men-children, and so there come to him great glory."

[875] Thus did he chide the band; but no one dared to meet his eye or to utter a word in answer. But just as they were in the assembly they made ready their departure in all haste, and the women came running towards them, when they knew their intent. And as when bees hum round fair lilies pouring forth from their hive in the rock, and all around the dewy meadow rejoices, and they gather the sweet fruit, flitting from one to another; even so the women eagerly poured forth clustering round the men with loud lament, and greeted each one with hands and voice, praying the blessed gods to grant him a safe return. And so Hypsipyle too prayed, seizing the hands of Aeson's son, and her tears flowed for the loss of her lover: "Go, and may heaven bring thee back again with thy comrades unharmed, bearing to the king the golden fleece, even as thou wilt and thy heart desireth; and this island and my father's sceptre will be awaiting thee, if on thy return hereafter thou shouldst choose to come hither again; and easily couldst thou gather a countless host of men from other cities. But thou wilt not have this desire, nor do I myself forbode that so it will be. Still remember Hypsipyle when thou art far away and when thou hast returned; and leave me some word of bidding, which I will gladly accomplish, if haply heaven shall grant me to be a mother."

[899] And Aeson's son in admiration thus replied: "Hypsipyle, so may all these things prove propitious by the favour of the blessed gods. But do thou hold a nobler thought of me, since by the grace of Pelias it is enough for me to dwell in my native land; may the gods only release me from my toils. But if it is not my destiny to sail afar and return to the land of Hellas, and if thou shouldst bear a male child, send him when grown up to Pelasgian Iolcus, to heal the grief of my father and mother if so be that he find them still living, in order that, far away from the king, they may be cared for by their own hearth in their home."

[910] He spake, and mounted the ship first of all; and so the rest of the chiefs followed, and, sitting in order, seized the oars; and Argus loosed for them the hawsers from under the sea-beaten rock. Whereupon they mightily smote the water with their long oars, and in the evening by the injunctions of Orpheus they touched at the island of Electra, daughter of Atlas, in order that by gentle

initiation they might learn the rites that may not be uttered, and so with greater safety sail over the chilling sea. Of these I will make no further mention; but I bid farewell to the island itself and the indwelling deities, to whom belong those mysteries, which it is not lawful for me to sing.

[922] Thence did they row with eagerness over the depths of the black Sea, having on the one side the land of the Thracians, on the other Imbros on the south; and as the sun was just setting they reached the foreland of the Chersonesus. There a strong south wind blew for them; and raising the sails to the breeze they entered the swift stream of the maiden daughter of Athamas; and at dawn the sea to the north was left behind and at night they were coasting inside the Rhoeteian shore, with the land of Ida on their right. And leaving Dardania they directed their course to Abydos, and after it they sailed past Percote and the sandy beach of Abarnis and divine Pityeia. And in that night, as the ship sped on by sail and oar, they passed right through the Hellespont dark-gleaming with eddies.

[936] There is a lofty island inside the Propontis, a short distance from the Phrygian mainland with its rich cornfields, sloping to the sea, where an isthmus in front of the mainland is flooded by the waves, so low does it lie. And the isthmus has double shores, and they lie beyond the river Aesepus, and the inhabitants round about call the island the Mount of Bears. And insolent and fierce men dwell there, Earthborn, a great marvel to the neighbours to behold; for each one has six mighty hands to lift up, two from his sturdy shoulders, and four below, fitting close to his terrible sides. And about the isthmus and the plain the Doliones had their dwelling, and over them Cyzicus son of Aeneus was king, whom Aenete the daughter of goodly Eusorus bare. But these men the Earthborn monsters, fearful though they were, in nowise harried, owing to the protection of Poseidon; for from him had the Doliones first sprung. Thither Argo pressed on, driven by the winds of Thrace, and the Fair haven received her as she sped. There they cast away their small anchorstone by the advice of Tiphys and left it beneath a fountain, the fountain of Artaeie; and they took another meet for their purpose, a heavy one; but the first, according to the oracle of the Far-Darter, the Ionians, sons of Neleus, in after days laid to be a sacred stone, as was right, in the temple of Jasonian Athena.

[961] Now the Doliones and Cyzicus himself all came together to meet them with friendliness, and when they knew of the quest and their lineage welcomed them with hospitality, and persuaded them to row further and to fasten their ship's hawsers at the city harbour. Here they built an altar to Ecbasian Apollo and set it up on the beach, and gave heed to sacrifices. And the king of his own bounty gave them sweet wine and sheep in their need; for he had heard a report that whenever a godlike band of heroes should come, straightway he should meet it with gentle words and should have no thought of war. As with Jason, the soft down was just blooming on his chin, nor yet had it been his lot to rejoice in children, but still in his palace his wife was

untouched by the pangs of child-birth, the daughter of Percosian Merops, fair-haired Cleite, whom lately by priceless gifts he had brought from her father's home from the mainland opposite. But even so he left his chamber and bridal bed and prepared a banquet among the strangers, casting all fears from his heart. And they questioned one another in turn. Of them would he learn the end of their voyage and the injunctions of Pelias; while they enquired about the cities of the people round and all the gulf of the wide Propontis; but further he could not tell them for all their desire to learn. In the morning they climbed mighty Dindymum that they might themselves behold the various paths of that sea; and they brought their ship from its former anchorage to the harbour, Chytus; and the path they trod is named the path of Jason.

[989] But the Earthborn men on the other side rushed down from the mountain and with crags below blocked up the mouth of vast Chytus towards the sea, like men lying in wait for a wild beast within. But there Heracles had been left behind with the younger heroes and he quickly bent his back-springing bow against the monsters and brought them to earth one after another; and they in their turn raised huge ragged rocks and hurled them. For these dread monsters too, I ween, the goddess Hera, bride of Zeus, had nurtured to be a trial for Heracles. And therewithal came the rest of the martial heroes returning to meet the foe before they reached the height of outlook, and they fell to the slaughter of the Earthborn, receiving them with arrows and spears until they slew them all as they rushed fiercely to battle. And as when woodcutters cast in rows upon the beach long trees just hewn down by their axes, in order that, once sodden with brine, they may receive the strong bolts; so these monsters at the entrance of the foam-fringed harbour lay stretched one after another, some in heaps bending their heads and breasts into the salt waves with their limbs spread out above on the land; others again were resting their heads on the sand of the shore and their feet in the deep water, both alike a prey to birds and fishes at once.

[1012] But the heroes, when the contest was ended without fear, loosed the ship's hawsers to the breath of the wind and pressed on through the sea-swell. And the ship sped on under sail all day; but when night came the rushing wind did not hold steadfast, but contrary blasts caught them and held them back till they again approached the hospitable Doliones. And they stepped ashore that same night; and the rock is still called the Sacred Rock round which they threw the ship's hawsers in their haste. Nor did anyone note with care that it was the same island; nor in the night did the Doliones clearly perceive that the heroes were returning; but they deemed that Pelasgian war-men of the Macrians had landed. Therefore they donned their armour and raised their hands against them. And with clashing of ashen spears and shields they fell on each other, like the swift rush of fire which falls on dry brushwood and rears its crest; and the din of battle, terrible and furious, fell upon the people of the Doliones. Nor was the king to escape his fate and return home from battle to his bridal chamber and bed. But Aeson's son leapt upon him as he turned to

face him, and smote him in the middle of the breast, and the bone was shattered round the spear; he rolled forward in the sand and filled up the measure of his fate. For that no mortal may escape; but on every side a wide snare encompasses us. And so, when he thought that he had escaped bitter death from the chiefs, fate entangled him that very night in her toils while battling with them; and many champions withal were slain; Heracles killed Telecles and Megabrontes, and Acastus slew Sphodris; and Peleus slew Zelus and Gephyrus swift in war. Telamon of the strong spear slew Basileus. And Idas slew Promeus, and Clytius Hyacinthus, and the two sons of Tyndareus slew Megalossaces and Phlogius. And after them the son of Oeneus slew bold Itomeneus, and Artaceus, leader of men; all of whom the inhabitants still honour with the worship due to heroes. And the rest gave way and fled in terror just as doves fly in terror before swift-winged hawks. And with a din they rustled in a body to the gates; and quickly the city was filled with loud cries at the turning of the dolorous fight. But at dawn both sides perceived the fatal and cureless error; and bitter grief seized the Minyan heroes when they saw before them Cyzicus son of Aeneus fallen in the midst of dust and blood. And for three whole days they lamented and rent their hair, they and the Dollones. Then three times round his tomb they paced in armour of bronze and performed funeral rites and celebrated games, as was meet, upon the meadow-plain, where even now rises the mound of his grave to be seen by men of a later day. No, nor was his bride Cleite left behind her dead husband, but to crown the ill she wrought an ill yet more awful, when she clasped a noose round her neck. Her death even the nymphs of the grove bewailed; and of all the tears for her that they shed to earth from their eyes the goddesses made a fountain, which they call Cleite, the illustrious name of the hapless maid. Most terrible came that day from Zeus upon the Doliones, women and men; for no one of them dared even to taste food, nor for a long time by reason of grief did they take thought for the toil of the cornmill, but they dragged on their lives eating their food as it was, untouched by fire. Here even now, when the Ionians that dwell in Cyzicus pour their yearly libations for the dead, they ever grind the meal for the sacrificial cakes at the common mill.

[1079] After this, fierce tempests arose for twelve days and nights together and kept them there from sailing. But in the next night the rest of the chieftains, overcome by sleep, were resting during the latest period of the night, while Acastus and Mopsus the son of Ampyeus kept guard over their deep slumbers. And above the golden head of Aeson's son there hovered a halcyon prophesying with shrill voice the ceasing of the stormy winds; and Mopsus heard and understood the cry of the bird of the shore, fraught with good omen. And some god made it turn aside, and flying aloft it settled upon the stern-ornament of the ship. And the seer touched Jason as he lay wrapped in soft sheepskins and woke him at once, and thus spake: "Son of Aeson, thou must climb to this temple on rugged Dindymum and propitiate the mother of all the blessed gods on her fair throne, and the stormy blasts shall cease. For

such was the voice I heard but now from the halcyon, bird of the sea, which, as it flew above thee in thy slumber, told me all. For by her power the winds and the sea and all the earth below and the snowy seat of Olympus are complete; and to her, when from the mountains she ascends the mighty heaven, Zeus himself, the son of Cronos, gives place. In like manner the rest of the immortal blessed ones reverence the dread goddess."

[1103] Thus he spake, and his words were welcome to Jason's ear. And he arose from his bed with joy and woke all his comrades hurriedly and told them the prophecy of Mopsus the son of Ampycus. And quickly the younger men drove oxen from their stalls and began to lead them to the mountain's lofty summit. And they loosed the hawsers from the sacred rock and rowed to the Thracian harbour; and the heroes climbed the mountain, leaving a few of their comrades in the ship. And to them the Macrian heights and all the coast of Thrace opposite appeared to view close at hand. And there appeared the misty mouth of Bosporus and the Mysian hills; and on the other side the stream of the river Aesepus and the city and Nepeian plain of Adrasteia. Now there was a sturdy stump of vine that grew in the forest, a tree exceeding old; this they cut down, to be the sacred image of the mountain goddess; and Argus smoothed it skilfully, and they set it upon that rugged hill beneath a canopy of lofty oaks, which of all trees have their roots deepest. And near it they heaped an altar of small stones, and wreathed their brows with oak leaves and paid heed to sacrifice, invoking the mother of Dindymum, most venerable, dweller in Phrygia, and Titias and Cyllenus, who alone of many are called dispensers of doom and assessors of the Idaean mother, — the Idaean Dactyls of Crete, whom once the nymph Anchiale, as she grasped with both hands the land of Oaxus, bare in the Dictaeon cave. And with many prayers did Aeson's son beseech the goddess to turn aside the stormy blasts as he poured libations on the blazing sacrifice; and at the same time by command of Orpheus the youths trod a measure dancing in full armour, and clashed with their swords on their shields, so that the ill-omened cry might be lost in the air the wail which the people were still sending up in grief for their king. Hence from that time forward the Phrygians propitiate Rhea with the wheel and the drum. And the gracious goddess, I ween, inclined her heart to pious sacrifices; and favourable signs appeared. The trees shed abundant fruit, and round their feet the earth of its own accord put forth flowers from the tender grass. And the beasts of the wild wood left their lairs and thickets and came up fawning on them with their tails. And she caused yet another marvel; for hitherto there was no flow of water on Dindymum, but then for them an unceasing stream gushed forth from the thirsty peak just as it was, and the dwellers around in after times called that stream, the spring of Jason. And then they made a feast in honour of the goddess on the Mount of Bears, singing the praises of Rhea most venerable; but at dawn the winds had ceased and they rowed away from the island.

[1153] Thereupon a spirit of contention stirred each chieftain, who should be

the last to leave his oar. For all around the windless air smoothed the swirling waves and lulled the sea to rest. And they, trusting in the calm, mightily drove the ship forward; and as she sped through the salt sea, not even the storm-footed steeds of Poseidon would have overtaken her. Nevertheless when the sea was stirred by violent blasts which were just rising from the rivers about evening, forspent with toil, they ceased. But Heracles by the might of his arms pulled the weary rowers along all together, and made the strong-knit timbers of the ship to quiver. But when, eager to reach the Mysian mainland, they passed along in sight of the mouth of Rhyndaeus and the great cairn of Aegaeon, a little way from Phrygia, then Heracles, as he ploughed up the furrows of the roughened surge, broke his oar in the middle. And one half he held in both his hands as he fell sideways, the other the sea swept away with its receding wave. And he sat up in silence glaring round; for his hands were unaccustomed to be idle.

[1172] Now at the hour when from the field some delver or ploughman goes gladly home to his hut, longing for his evening meal, and there on the threshold, all squalid with dust, bows his wearied knees, and, beholding his hands worn with toil, with many a curse reviles his belly; at that hour the heroes reached the homes of the Cianian land near the Arganthonian mount and the outfall of Cius. Them as they came in friendliness, the Mysians, inhabitants of that land, hospitably welcomed, and gave them in their need provisions and sheep and abundant wine. Hereupon some brought dried wood, others from the meadows leaves for beds which they gathered in abundance for strewing, whilst others were twirling sticks to get fire; others again were mixing wine in the bowl and making ready the feast, after sacrificing at nightfall to Apollo Ecbasius.

[1187] But the son of Zeus having duly enjoined on his comrades to prepare the feast took his way into a wood, that he might first fashion for himself an oar to fit his hand. Wandering about he found a pine not burdened with many branches, nor too full of leaves, but like to the shaft of a tall poplar; so great was it both in length and thickness to look at. And quickly he laid on the ground his arrow-holding quiver together with his bow, and took off his lion's skin. And he loosened the pine from the ground with his bronze-tipped club and grasped the trunk with both hands at the bottom, relying on his strength; and he pressed it against his broad shoulder with legs wide apart; and clinging close he raised it from the ground deep-rooted though it was, together with clods of earth. And as when unexpectedly, just at the time of the stormy setting of baleful Orion, a swift gust of wind strikes down from above, and wrenches a ship's mast from its stays, wedges and all; so did Heracles lift the pine. And at the same time he took up his bow and arrows, his lion skin and club, and started on his return.

[1207] Meantime Hylas with pitcher of bronze in hand had gone apart from the throng, seeking the sacred flow of a fountain, that he might be quick in drawing water for the evening meal and actively make all things ready in due

order against his lord's return. For in such ways did Heracles nurture him from his first childhood when he had carried him off from the house of his father, goodly Theiodamas, whom the hero pitilessly slew among the Dryopians because he withstood him about an ox for the plough. Theiodamas was cleaving with his plough the soil of fallow land when he was smitten with the curse; and Heracles bade him give up the ploughing ox against his will. For he desired to find some pretext for war against the Dryopians for their bane, since they dwelt there reckless of right. But these tales would lead me far astray from my song. And quickly Hylas came to the spring which the people who dwell thereabouts call Pegae. And the dances of the nymphs were just now being held there; for it was the care of all the nymphs that haunted that lovely headland ever to hymn Artemis in songs by night. All who held the mountain peaks or glens, all they were ranged far off guarding the woods; but one, a water-nymph was just rising from the fair-flowing spring; and the boy she perceived close at hand with the rosy flush of his beauty and sweet grace. For the full moon beaming from the sky smote him. And Cypris made her heart faint, and in her confusion she could scarcely gather her spirit back to her. But as soon as he dipped the pitcher in the stream, leaning to one side, and the brimming water rang loud as it poured against the sounding bronze, straightway she laid her left arm above upon his neck yearning to kiss his tender mouth; and with her right hand she drew down his elbow, and plunged him into the midst of the eddy.

[1240] Alone of his comrades the hero Polyphemus, son of Eilatus, as he went forward on the path, heard the boy's cry, for he expected the return of mighty Heracles. And he rushed after the cry, near Pegae, like some beast of the wild wood whom the bleating of sheep has reached from afar, and burning with hunger he follows, but does not fall in with the flocks; for the shepherds beforehand have penned them in the fold, but he groans and roars vehemently until he is weary. Thus vehemently at that time did the son of Eilatus groan and wandered shouting round the spot; and his voice rang piteous. Then quickly drawing his great sword he started in pursuit, in fear lest the boy should be the prey of wild beasts, or men should have lain in ambush for him faring all alone, and be carrying him off, an easy prey. Hereupon as he brandished his bare sword in his hand he met Heracles himself on the path, and well he knew him as he hastened to the ship through the darkness. And straightway he told the wretched calamity while his heart laboured with his panting breath. "My poor friend, I shall be the first to bring thee tidings of bitter woe. Hylas has gone to the well and has not returned safe, but robbers have attacked and are carrying him off, or beasts are tearing him to pieces; I heard his cry."

[1261] Thus he spake; and when Heracles heard his words, sweat in abundance poured down from his temples and the black blood boiled beneath his heart. And in wrath he hurled the pine to the ground and hurried along the path whither his feet bore on his impetuous soul. And as when a bull stung by

a gadfly tears along, leaving the meadows and the marsh land, and reckes not of herdsmen or herd, but presses on, now without cheek, now standing still, and raising his broad neck he bellows loudly, stung by the maddening fly; so he in his frenzy now would ply his swift knees unresting, now again would cease from toil and shout afar with loud pealing cry.

[1273] But straightway the morning star rose above the topmost peaks and the breeze swept down; and quickly did Tiphys urge them to go aboard and avail themselves of the wind. And they embarked eagerly forthwith; and they drew up the ship's anchors and hauled the ropes astern. And the sails were bellied out by the wind, and far from the coast were they joyfully borne past the Posideian headland. But at the hour when gladsome dawn shines from heaven, rising from the east, and the paths stand out clearly, and the dewy plains shine with a bright gleam, then at length they were aware that unwittingly they had abandoned those men. And a fierce quarrel fell upon them, and violent tumult, for that they had sailed and left behind the bravest of their comrades. And Aeson's son, bewildered by their hapless plight, said never a word, good or bad; but sat with his heavy load of grief, eating out his heart. And wrath seized Telamon, and thus he spake: "Sit there at thy ease, for it was fitting for thee to leave Heracles behind; from thee the project arose, so that his glory throughout Hellas should not overshadow thee, if so be that heaven grants us a return home. But what pleasure is there in words? For I will go, I only, with none of thy comrades, who have helped thee to plan this treachery."

[1296] He spake, and rushed upon Tiphys son of Hagnias; and his eyes sparkled like flashes of ravening flame. And they would quickly have turned back to the land of the Mysians, forcing their way through the deep sea and the unceasing blasts of the wind, had not the two sons of Thracian Boreas held back the son of Aeacus with harsh words. Hapless ones, assuredly a bitter vengeance came upon them thereafter at the hands of Heracles, because they stayed the search for him. For when they were returning from the games over Pelias dead he slew them in sea-girt Tenos and heaped the earth round them, and placed two columns above, one of which, a great marvel for men to see, moves at the breath of the blustering north wind. These things were thus to be accomplished in after times. But to them appeared Glaucus from the depths of the sea, the wise interpreter of divine Nereus, and raising aloft his shaggy head and chest from his waist below, with sturdy hand he seized the ship's keel, and then cried to the eager crew: "Why against the counsel of mighty Zeus do ye purpose to lead bold Heracles to the city of Aeetes? At Argos it is his fate to labour for insolent Eurystheus and to accomplish full twelve toils and dwell with the immortals, if so be that he bring to fulfilment a few more yet; wherefore let there be no vain regret for him. Likewise it is destined for Polyphemos to found a glorious city at the mouth of Cius among the Mysians and to fill up the measure of his fate in the vast land of the Chalybes. But a goddess-nymph through love has made Hylas her husband, on whose account

those two wandered and were left behind.”

[1326] He spake, and with a plunge wrapped him about with the restless wave; and round him the dark water foamed in seething eddies and dashed against the hollow ship as it moved through the sea. And the heroes rejoiced, and Telamon son of Aeacus came in haste to Jason, and grasping his hand in his own embraced him with these words: “Son of Aeson, be not wroth with me, if in my folly I have erred, for grief wrought upon me to utter a word arrogant and intolerable. But let me give my fault to the winds and let our hearts be joined as before.”

[1336] Him the son of Aeson with prudence addressed: “Good friend, assuredly with an evil word didst thou revile me, saying before them all that I was the wronger of a kindly man. But not for long will I nurse bitter wrath, though indeed before I was grieved. For it was not for flocks of sheep, no, nor for possessions that thou wast angered to fury, but for a man, thy comrade. And I were fain thou wouldst even champion me against another man if a like thing should ever befall me.”

[1344] He spake, and they sat down, united as of old. But of those two, by the counsel of Zeus, one, Polyphemus son of Eilatus, was destined to found and build a city among the Mysians bearing the river’s name, and the other, Heracles, to return and toil at the labours of Eurystheus. And he threatened to lay waste the Mysian land at once, should they not discover for him the doom of Hylas, whether living or dead. And for him they gave pledges choosing out the noblest sons of the people and took an oath that they would never cease from their labour of search. Therefore to this day the people of Cius enquire for Hylas the son of Theiodamas, and take thought for the well-built Trachis. For there did Heracles settle the youths whom they sent from Cius as pledges.

[1358] And all day long and all night the wind bore the ship on, blowing fresh and strong; but when dawn rose there was not even a breath of air. And they marked a beach jutting forth from a bend of the coast, very broad to behold, and by dint of rowing came to land at sunrise.

BOOK II.

[1] Here were the oxstalls and farm of Amycus, the haughty king of the Bebrycians, whom once a nymph, Bithynian Melie, united to Poseidon Genethlius, bare the most arrogant of men; for even for strangers he laid down an insulting ordinance, that none should depart till they had made trial of him in boxing; and he had slain many of the neighbours. And at that time too he went down to the ship and in his insolence scorned to ask them the occasion of their voyage, and who they were, but at once spake out among them all: "Listen, ye wanderers by sea, to what it befits you to know. It is the rule that no stranger who comes to the Bebrycians should depart till he has raised his hands in battle against mine. Wherefore select your bravest warrior from the host and set him here on the spot to contend with me in boxing. But if ye pay no heed and trample my decrees under foot, assuredly to your sorrow will stern necessity come upon you.

[19] Thus he spake in his pride, but fierce anger seized them when they heard it, and the challenge smote Polydeuces most of all. And quickly he stood forth his comrades' champion, and cried: "Hold now, and display not to us thy brutal violence, whoever thou art; for we will obey thy rules, as thou sayest. Willingly now do I myself undertake to meet thee."

[25] Thus he spake outright; but the other with rolling eyes glared on him, like to a lion struck by a javelin when hunters in the mountains are hemming him round, and, though pressed by the throng, he reeks no more of them, but keeps his eyes fixed, singling out that man only who struck him first and slew him not. Hereupon the son of Tyndareus laid aside his mantle, closely-woven, delicately-wrought, which one of the Lemnian maidens had given him as a pledge of hospitality; and the king threw down his dark cloak of double fold with its clasps and the knotted crook of mountain olive which he carried. Then straightway they looked and chose close by a spot that pleased them and bade their comrades sit upon the sand in two lines; nor were they alike to behold in form or in stature. The one seemed to be a monstrous son of baleful Typhoeus or of Earth herself, such as she brought forth aforetime, in her wrath against Zeus; but the other, the son of Tyndareus, was like a star of heaven, whose beams are fairest as it shines through the nightly sky at eventide. Such was the son of Zeus, the bloom of the first down still on his cheeks, still with the look of gladness in his eyes. But his might and fury waxed like a wild beast's; and he poised his hands to see if they were pliant as before and were not altogether numbed by toil and rowing. But Amycus on his side made no trial; but standing apart in silence he kept his eyes upon his foe, and his spirit surged within him all eager to dash the life-blood from his breast. And between them Lyeoreus, the henchman of Amycus, placed at their feet on each side two pairs of gauntlets made of raw hide, dry, exceeding tough. And the king addressed the hero with arrogant words: "Whichever of these thou

wilt, without casting lots, I grant thee freely, that thou mayst not blame me hereafter. Bind them about thy hands; thou shalt learn and tell another how skilled I am to carve the dry oxhides and to spatter men's cheeks with blood."

[60] Thus he spake; but the other gave back no taunt in answer, but with a light smile readily took up the gauntlets that lay at his feet; and to him came Castor and mighty Talaus, son of Bias, and they quickly bound the gauntlets about his hands, often bidding him be of good courage. And to Amycus came Aretus and Ornytus, but little they knew, poor fools, that they had bound them for the last time on their champion, a victim of evil fate.

[67] Now when they stood apart and were ready with their gauntlets, straightway in front of their faces they raised their heavy hands and matched their might in deadly strife. Hereupon the Bebrycian king even as a fierce wave of the sea rises in a crest against a swift ship, but she by the skill of the crafty pilot just escapes the shock when the billow is eager to break over the bulwark — so he followed up the son of Tyndareus, trying to daunt him, and gave him no respite. But the hero, ever unwounded, by his skill baffled the rush of his foe, and he quickly noted the brutal play of his fists to see where he was invincible in strength, and where inferior, and stood unceasingly and returned blow for blow. And as when shipwrights with their hammers smite ships' timbers to meet the sharp clamps, fixing layer upon layer; and the blows resound one after another; so cheeks and jaws crashed on both sides, and a huge clattering of teeth arose, nor did they cease ever from striking their blows until laboured gasping overcame both. And standing a little apart they wiped from their foreheads sweat in abundance, wearily panting for breath. Then back they rushed together again, as two bulls fight in furious rivalry for a grazing heifer. Next Amycus rising on tiptoe, like one who slays an ox, sprung to his full height and swung his heavy hand down upon his rival; but the hero swerved aside from the rush, turning his head, and just received the arm on his shoulder; and coming near and slipping his knee past the king's, with a rush he struck him above the ear, and broke the bones inside, and the king in agony fell upon his knees; and the Minyan heroes shouted for joy; and his life was poured forth all at once.

[98] Nor were the Bebrycians reckless of their king; but all together took up rough clubs and spears and rushed straight on Polydeuces. But in front of him stood his comrades, their keen swords drawn from the sheath. First Castor struck upon the head a man as he rushed at him: and it was cleft in twain and fell on each side upon his shoulders. And Polydeuces slew huge Itymoneus and Mimas. The one, with a sudden leap, he smote beneath the breast with his swift foot and threw him in the dust; and as the other drew near he struck him with his right hand above the left eyebrow, and tore away his eyelid and the eyeball was left bare. But Oreides, insolent henchman of Amycus, wounded Talaus son of Bias in the side, but did not slay him, but only grazing the skin the bronze sped under his belt and touched not the flesh. Likewise Aretus with well-seasoned club smote Iphitus, the steadfast son of Eurytus, not yet

destined to an evil death; assuredly soon was he himself to be slain by the sword of Clytius. Then Ancaeus, the dauntless son of Lycurgus, quickly seized his huge axe, and in his left hand holding a bear's dark hide, plunged into the midst of the Bebrycians with furious onset; and with him charged the sons of Aeacus, and with them started warlike Jason. And as when amid the folds grey wolves rush down on a winter's day and scare countless sheep, unmarked by the keen-scented dogs and the shepherds too, and they seek what first to attack and carry off; often glaring around, but the sheep are just huddled together and trample on one another; so the heroes grievously scared the arrogant Bebrycians. And as shepherds or beekeepers smoke out a huge swarm of bees in a rock, and they meanwhile, pent up in their hive, murmur with droning hum, till, stupefied by the murky smoke, they fly forth far from the rock; so they stayed steadfast no longer, but scattered themselves inland through Bebrycia, proclaiming the death of Amycus; fools, not to perceive that another woe all unforeseen was hard upon them. For at that hour their vineyards and villages were being ravaged by the hostile spear of Lycus and the Mariandyni, now that their king was gone. For they were ever at strife about the ironbearing land. And now the foe was destroying their steadings and farms, and now the heroes from all sides were driving off their countless sheep, and one spake among his fellows thus: "Bethink ye what they would have done in their cowardice if haply some god had brought Heracles hither. Assuredly, if he had been here, no trial would there have been of fists, I ween, but when the king drew near to proclaim his rules, the club would have made him forget his pride and the rules to boot. Yea, we left him uncared for on the strand and we sailed oversea; and full well each one of us shall know our baneful folly, now that he is far away."

[154] Thus he spake, but all these things had been wrought by the counsels of Zeus. Then they remained there through the night and tended the hurts of the wounded men, and offered sacrifice to the immortals, and made ready a mighty meal; and sleep fell upon no man beside the bowl and the blazing sacrifice. They wreathed their fair brows with the bay that grew by the shore, whereto their hawsers were bound, and chanted a song to the lyre of Orpheus in sweet harmony; and the windless shore was charmed by their song; and they celebrated the Therapnaean son of Zeus.

[164] But when the sun rising from far lands lighted up the dewy hills and wakened the shepherds, then they loosed their hawsers from the stem of the baytree and put on board all the spoil they had need to take; and with a favouring wind they steered through the eddying Bosphorus. Hereupon a wave like a steep mountain rose aloft in front as though rushing upon them, ever upheaved above the clouds; nor would you say that they could escape grim death, for in its fury it hangs over the middle of the ship, like a cloud, yet it sinks away into calm if it meets with a skilful helmsman. So they by the steering-craft of Tiphys escaped, unhurt but sore dismayed. And on the next day they fastened the hawsers to the coast opposite the Bithynian land.

[178] There Phineus, son of Agenor, had his home by the sea, Phineus who above all men endured most bitter woes because of the gift of prophecy which Leto's son had granted him aforetime. And he revered not a whit even Zeus himself, for he foretold unerringly to men his sacred will. Wherefore Zeus sent upon him a lingering old age, and took from his eyes the pleasant light, and suffered him not to have joy of the dainties untold that the dwellers around ever brought to his house, when they came to enquire the will of heaven. But on a sudden, swooping through the clouds, the Harpies with their crooked beaks incessantly snatched the food away from his mouth and hands. And at times not a morsel of food was left, at others but a little, in order that he might live and be tormented. And they poured forth over all a loathsome stench; and no one dared not merely to carry food to his mouth but even to stand at a distance; so foully reeked the remnants of the meal. But straightway when he heard the voice and the tramp of the band he knew that they were the men passing by, at whose coming Zeus' oracle had declared to him that he should have joy of his food. And he rose from his couch, like a lifeless dream, bowed over his staff, and crept to the door on his withered feet, feeling the walls; and as he moved, his limbs trembled for weakness and age; and his parched skin was caked with dirt, and naught but the skill held his bones together. And he came forth from the hall with wearied knees and sat on the threshold of the courtyard; and a dark stupor covered him, and it seemed that the earth reeled round beneath his feet, and he lay in a strengthless trance, speechless. But when they saw him they gathered round and marvelled. And he at last drew laboured breath from the depths of his chest and spoke among them with prophetic utterance: "Listen, bravest of all the Hellenes, if it be truly ye, whom by a king's ruthless command Jason is leading on the ship Argo in quest of the fleece. It is ye truly. Even yet my soul by its divination knows everything. Thanks I render to thee, O king, son of Leto, plunged in bitter affliction though I be. I beseech you by Zeus the god of suppliants, the sternest foe to sinful men, and for the sake of Phoebus and Hera herself, under whose especial care ye have come hither, help me, save an ill-fated man from misery, and depart not uncaring and leaving me thus as ye see. For not only has the Fury set her foot on my eyes and I drag on to the end a weary old age; but besides my other woes a woe hangs over me the bitterest of all. The Harpies, swooping down from some unseen den of destruction, ever snatch the food from my mouth. And I have no device to aid me. But it were easier, when I long for a meal, to escape my own thoughts than them, so swiftly do they fly through the air. But if haply they do leave me a morsel of food it reeks of decay and the stench is unendurable, nor could any mortal bear to draw near even for a moment, no, not if his heart were wrought of adamant. But necessity, bitter and insatiate, compels me to abide and abiding to put food in my cursed belly. These pests, the oracle declares, the sons of Boreas shall restrain. And no strangers are they that shall ward them off if indeed I am Phineus who was once renowned among men for wealth and the gift of

prophecy, and if I am the son of my father Agenor; and, when I ruled among the Thracians, by my bridal gifts I brought home their sister Cleopatra to be my wife."

[240] So spake Agenor's son; and deep sorrow seized each of the heroes, and especially the two sons of Boreas. And brushing away a tear they drew nigh, and Zetes spake as follows, taking in his own the hand of the grief-worn sire: "Unhappy one, none other of men is more wretched than thou, methinks. Why upon thee is laid the burden of so many sorrows? Hast thou with baneful folly sinned against the gods through thy skill in prophecy? For this are they greatly wroth with thee? Yet our spirit is dismayed within us for all our desire to aid thee, if indeed the god has granted this privilege to us two. For plain to discern to men of earth are the reproofs of the immortals. And we will never check the Harpies when they come, for all our desire, until thou hast sworn that for this we shall not lose the favour of heaven."

[254] Thus he spake; and towards him the aged sire opened his sightless eyes, and lifted them up and replied with these words: "Be silent, store not up such thoughts in thy heart, my child. Let the son of Leto be my witness, he who of his gracious will taught me the lore of prophecy, and be witness the ill-starred doom which possesses me and this dark cloud upon my eyes, and the gods of the underworld — and may their curse be upon me if I die perjured thus — no wrath from heaven will fall upon you two for your help to me."

[262] Then were those two eager to help him because of the oath. And quickly the younger heroes prepared a feast for the aged man, a last prey for the Harpies; and both stood near him, to smite with the sword those pests when they swooped down. Scarcely had the aged man touched the food when they forthwith, like bitter blasts or flashes of lightning, suddenly darted from the clouds, and swooped down with a yell, fiercely craving for food; and the heroes beheld them and shouted in the midst of their onrush; but they at the cry devoured everything and sped away over the sea after; and an intolerable stench remained. And behind them the two sons of Boreas raising their swords rushed in pursuit. For Zeus imparted to them tireless strength; but without Zeus they could not have followed, for the Harpies used ever to outstrip the blasts of the west wind when they came to Phineus and when they left him. And as when, upon the mountain-side, hounds, cunning in the chase, run in the track of horned goats or deer, and as they strain a little behind gnash their teeth upon the edge of their jaws in vain; so Zetes and Calais rushing very near just grazed the Harpies in vain with their finger-tips. And assuredly they would have torn them to pieces, despite heaven's will, when they had overtaken them far off at the Floating Islands, had not swift Iris seen them and leapt down from the sky from heaven above, and checked them with these words: "It is not lawful, O sons of Boreas, to strike with your swords the Harpies, the hounds of mighty Zeus; but I myself will give you a pledge, that hereafter they shall not draw near to Phineus."

[291] With these words she took an oath by the waters of Styx, which to all

the gods is most dread and most awful, that the Harpies would never thereafter again approach the home of Phineus, son of Agenor, for so it was fated. And the heroes yielding to the oath, turned back their flight to the ship. And on account of this men call them the Islands of Turning though aforetime they called them the Floating Islands. And the Harpies and Iris parted. They entered their den in Minoan Crete; but she sped up to Olympus, soaring aloft on her swift wings.

[301] Meanwhile the chiefs carefully cleansed the old man's squalid skin and with due selection sacrificed sheep which they had borne away from the spoil of Amycus. And when they had laid a huge supper in the hall, they sat down and feasted, and with them feasted Phineus ravenously, delighting his soul, as in a dream. And there, when they had taken their fill of food and drink, they kept awake all night waiting for the sons of Boreas. And the aged sire himself sat in the midst, near the hearth, telling of the end of their voyage and the completion of their journey: "Listen then. Not everything is it lawful for you to know clearly; but whatever is heaven's will, I will not hide. I was infatuated aforetime, when in my folly I declared the will of Zeus in order and to the end. For he himself wishes to deliver to men the utterances of the prophetic art incomplete, in order that they may still have some need to know the will of heaven.

[316] "First of all, after leaving me, ye will see the twin Cyanean rocks where the two seas meet. No one, I ween, has won his escape between them. For they are not firmly fixed with roots beneath, but constantly clash against one another to one point, and above a huge mass of salt water rises in a crest, boiling up, and loudly dashes upon the hard beach. Wherefore now obey my counsel, if indeed with prudent mind and reverencing the blessed gods ye pursue your way; and perish not foolishly by a self-sought death, or rush on following the guidance of youth. First entrust the attempt to a dove when ye have sent her forth from the ship. And if she escapes safe with her wings between the rocks to the open sea, then no more do ye refrain from the path, but grip your oars well in your hands and cleave the sea's narrow strait, for the light of safety will be not so much in prayer as in strength of hands. Wherefore let all else go and labour boldly with might and main, but ere then implore the gods as ye will, I forbid you not. But if she flies onward and perishes midway, then do ye turn back; for it is better to yield to the immortals. For ye could not escape an evil doom from the rocks, not even if Argo were of iron.

[341] "O hapless ones, dare not to transgress my divine warning, even though ye think that I am thrice as much hated by the sons of heaven as I am, and even more than thrice; dare not to sail further with your ship in despite of the omen. And as these things will fall, so shall they fall. But if ye shun the clashing rocks and come scatheless inside Pontus, straightway keep the land of the Bithynians on your right and sail on, and beware of the breakers, until ye round the swift river Rhebas and the black beach, and reach the harbour of

the Isle of Thynias. Thence ye must turn back a little space through the sea and beach your ship on the land of the Mariandyni lying opposite. Here is a downward path to the abode of Hades, and the headland of Acherusia stretches aloft, and eddying Acheron cleaves its way at the bottom, even through the headland, and sends its waters forth from a huge ravine. And near it ye will sail past many hills of the Paphlagonians, over whom at the first Eneteian Pelops reigned, and of his blood they boast themselves to be.

[360] "Now there is a headland opposite Helice the Bear, steep on all sides, and they call it Carambis, about whose crests the blasts of the north wind are sundered. So high in the air does it rise turned towards the sea. And when ye have rounded it broad Aegialus stretches before you; and at the end of broad Aegialus, at a jutting point of coast, the waters of the river Halys pour forth with a terrible roar; and after it his flowing near, but smaller in stream, rolls into the sea with white eddies. Onward from thence the bend of a huge and towering cape reaches out from the land, next Thermodon at its mouth flows into a quiet bay at the Themiscyreian headland, after wandering through a broad continent. And here is the plain of Doeas, and near are the three cities of the Amazons, and after them the Chalybes, most wretched of men, possess a soil rugged and unyielding sons of toil, they busy themselves with working iron. And near them dwell the Tibareni, rich in sheep, beyond the Genetaean headland of Zeus, lord of hospitality. And bordering on it the Mossynoeci next in order inhabit the well-wooded mainland and the parts beneath the mountains, who have built in towers made from trees their wooden homes and well-fitted chambers, which they call Mossynes, and the people themselves take their name from them. After passing them ye must beach your ship upon a smooth island, when ye have driven away with all manner of skill the ravening birds, which in countless numbers haunt the desert island. In it the Queens of the Amazons, Otrere and Antiope, built a stone temple of Ares what time they went forth to war. Now here an unspeakable help will come to you from the bitter sea; wherefore with kindly intent I bid you stay. But what need is there that I should sin yet again declaring everything to the end by my prophetic art? And beyond the island and opposite mainland dwell the Philyres: and above the Philyres are the Macrones, and after them the vast tribes of the Becheiri. And next in order to them dwell the Sapeires, and the Byzeres have the lands adjoining to them, and beyond them at last live the warlike Colchians themselves. But speed on in your ship, till ye touch the inmost bourne of the sea. And here at the Cytaean mainland and from the Amarantine mountains far away and the Circaean plain, eddying Phasis rolls his broad stream to the sea. Guide your ship to the mouth of that river and ye shall behold the towers of Cytaean Aeetes and the shady grove of Ares, where a dragon, a monster terrible to behold, ever glares around, keeping watch over the fleece that is spread upon the top of an oak; neither by day nor by night does sweet sleep subdue his restless eyes."

[408] Thus he spake, and straightway fear seized them as they heard. And for

a long while they were struck with silence; till at last the hero, son of Aeson, spake, sore dismayed at their evil plight: "O aged sire, now hast thou come to the end of the toils of our sea-journeying and hast told us the token, trusting to which we shall make our way to Pontus through the hateful rocks; but whether, when we have escaped them, we shall have a return back again to Hellas, this too would we gladly learn from thee. What shall I do, how shall I go over again such a long path through the sea, unskilled as I am, with unskilled comrades? And Colchian Aea lies at the edge of Pontus and of the world."

[419] Thus he spake, and him the aged sire addressed in reply: "O son, when once thou hast escaped through the deadly rocks, fear not; for a deity will be the guide from Aea by another track; and to Aea there will be guides enough. But, my friends, take thought of the artful aid of the Cyprian goddess. For on her depends the glorious issue of your venture. And further than this ask me not."

[426] Thus spake Agenor's son, and close at hand the twin sons of Thracian Boreas came darting from the sky and set their swift feet upon the threshold; and the heroes rose up from their seats when they saw them present. And Zetes, still drawing hard breath after his toil, spake among the eager listeners, telling them how far they had driven the Harpies and how he prevented their slaying them, and how the goddess of her grace gave them pledges, and how those others in fear plunged into the vast cave of the Dictaeon cliff. Then in the mansion all their comrades were joyful at the tidings and so was Phineus himself. And quickly Aeson's son, with good will exceeding, addressed him: "Assuredly there was then, Phineus, some god who cared for thy bitter woe, and brought us hither from afar, that the sons of Boreas might aid thee; and if too he should bring sight to thine eyes, verily I should rejoice, methinks, as much as if I were on my homeward way."

[443] Thus he spake, but Phineus replied to him with downcast look: "Son of Aeson, that is past recall, nor is there any remedy hereafter, for blasted are my sightless eyes. But instead of that, may the god grant me death at once, and after death I shall take my share in perfect bliss."

[448] Then they two returned answering speech, each to other, and soon in the midst of their converse early dawn appeared; and round Phineus were gathered the neighbours who used to come thither aforetime day by day and constantly bring a portion of their food. To all alike, however poor he was that came, the aged man gave his oracles with good will, and freed many from their woes by his prophetic art; wherefore they visited and tended him. And with them came Paraebius, who was dearest to him, and gladly did he perceive these strangers in the house. For long ere now the seer himself had said that a band of chieftains, faring from Hellas to the city of Acetes, would make fast their hawsers to the Thynian land, and by Zeus' will would check the approach of the Harpies. The rest the old man pleased with words of wisdom and let them go; Paraebius only he bade remain there with the chiefs;

and straightway he sent him and bade him bring back the choicest of his sheep.

[466] And when he had left the hall Phineus spake gently amid the throng of oarsmen: "O my friends, not all men are arrogant, it seems, nor unmindful of benefits. Even as this man, loyal as he is, came hither to learn his fate. For when he laboured the most and toiled the most, then the needs of life, ever growing more and more, would waste him, and day after day ever dawned more wretched, nor was there any respite to his toil. But he was paying the sad penalty of his father's sin. For he when alone on the mountains, felling trees, once slighted the prayers of a Hamadryad, who wept and sought to soften him with plaintive words, not to cut down the stump of an oak tree coeval with herself, wherein for a long time she had lived continually; but he in the arrogance of youth recklessly cut it down. So to him the nymph thereafter made her death a curse, to him and to his children. I indeed knew of the sin when he came; and I bid him build an altar to the Thynian nymph, and offer on it an atoning sacrifice, with prayer to escape his father's fate. Here, ever since he escaped the god-sent doom, never has he forgotten or neglected me; but sorely and against his will do I send him from my doors, so eager is he to remain with me in my affliction."

[490] Thus spake Agenor's son; and his friend straightway came near leading two sheep from the flock. And up rose Jason and up rose the sons of Boreas at the bidding of the aged sire. And quickly they called upon Apollo, lord of prophecy, and offered sacrifice upon the health as the day was just sinking. And the younger comrades made ready a feast to their hearts' desire. Thereupon having well feasted they turned themselves to rest, some near the ship's hawsers, others in groups throughout the mansion. And at dawn the Etesian winds blew strongly, which by the command of Zeus blow over every land equally.

[500] Cyrene, the tale goes, once tended sheep along the marsh-meadow of Peneus among men of old time; for dear to her were maidenhood and a couch unstained. But, as she guarded her flock by the river, Apollo carried her off far from Haemonia and placed her among the nymphs of the land, who dwelt in Libya near the Myrtosian height. And here to Phoebus she bore Aristaeus whom the Haemonians, rich in corn-land, call "Hunter" and "Shepherd". Her, of his love, the god made a nymph there, of long life and a huntress, and his son he brought while still an infant to be nurtured in the cave of Cheiron. And to him when he grew to manhood the Muses gave a bride, and taught him the arts of healing and of prophecy; and they made him the keeper of their sheep, of all that grazed on the Athamantian plain of Phthia and round steep Othrys and the sacred stream of the river Apidanus. But when from heaven Sirius scorched the Minoan Isles, and for long there was no respite for the inhabitants, then by the injunction of the Far-Darter they summoned Aristaeus to ward off the pestilence. And by his father's command he left Phthia and made his home in Ceos, and gathered together the Parrhasian people who are

of the lineage of Lycaon, and he built a great altar to Zeus Icmæus, and duly offered sacrifices upon the mountains to that star Sirius, and to Zeus son of Cronos himself. And on this account it is that Etesian winds from Zeus cool the land for forty days, and in Ceos even now the priests offer sacrifices before the rising of the Dog-star.

[528] So the tale is told, but the chieftains stayed there by constraint, and every day the Thynians, doing pleasure to Phineus, sent them gifts beyond measure. And afterwards they raised an altar to the blessed twelve on the sea-beach opposite and laid offerings thereon and then entered their swift ship to row, nor did they forget to bear with them a trembling dove; but Euphemus seized her and brought her all quivering with fear, and they loosed the twin hawsers from the land.

[537] Nor did they start unmarked by Athena, but straightway swiftly she set her feet on a light cloud, which would waft her on, mighty though she was, and she swept on to the sea with friendly thoughts to the oarsmen. And as when one roves far from his native land, as we men often wander with enduring heart, nor is any land too distant but all ways are clear to his view, and he sees in mind his own home, and at once the way over sea and land seems plain, and swiftly thinking, now this way, now that, he strains with eager eyes; so swiftly the daughter of Zeus darted down and set her foot on the cheerless shore of Thynia.

[549] Now when they reached the narrow strait of the winding passage, hemmed in on both sides by rugged cliffs, while an eddying current from below was washing against the ship as she moved on, they went forward sorely in dread; and now the thud of the crashing rocks ceaselessly struck their ears, and the sea-washed shores resounded, and then Euphemus grasped the dove in his hand and started to mount the prow; and they, at the bidding of Tiphys, son of Hagnias, rowed with good will to drive Argo between the rocks, trusting to their strength. And as they rounded a bend they saw the rocks opening for the last time of all. Their spirit melted within them; and Euphemus sent forth the dove to dart forward in flight; and they all together raised their heads to look; but she flew between them, and the rocks again rushed together and crashed as they met face to face. And the foam leapt up in a mass like a cloud; awful was the thunder of the sea; and all round them the mighty welkin roared.

[568] The hollow caves beneath the rugged cliffs rumbled as the sea came surging in; and the white foam of the dashing wave spurted high above the cliff. Next the current whirled the ship round. And the rocks shore away the end of the dove's tail-feathers; but away she flew unscathed. And the rowers gave a loud cry; and Tiphys himself called to them to row with might and main. For the rocks were again parting asunder. But as they rowed they trembled, until the tide returning drove them back within the rocks. Then most awful fear seized upon all; for over their head was destruction without escape. And now to right and left broad Pontus was seen, when suddenly a huge wave

rose up before them, arched, like a steep rock; and at the sight they bowed with bended heads. For it seemed about to leap down upon the ship's whole length and to overwhelm them. But Tiphys was quick to ease the ship as she laboured with the oars; and in all its mass the wave rolled away beneath the keel, and at the stern it raised Argo herself and drew her far away from the rocks; and high in air was she borne. But Euphemus strode among all his comrades and cried to them to bend to their oars with all their might; and they with a shout smote the water. And as far as the ship yielded to the rowers, twice as far did she leap back, and the oar, were bent like curved bows as the heroes used their strength.

[593] Then a vaulted billow rushed upon them, and the ship like a cylinder ran on the furious wave plunging through the hollow sea. And the eddying current held her between the clashing rocks; and on each side they shook and thundered; and the ship's timbers were held fast. Then Athena with her left hand thrust back one mighty rock and with her right pushed the ship through; and she, like a winged arrow, sped through the air. Nevertheless the rocks, ceaselessly clashing, shore off as she passed the extreme end of the stern-ornament. But Athena soared up to Olympus, when they had escaped unscathed. And the rocks in one spot at that moment were rooted fast for ever to each other, which thing had been destined by the blessed gods, when a man in his ship should have passed between them alive. And the heroes breathed again after their chilling fear, beholding at the same time the sky and the expanse of sea spreading far and wide. For they deemed that they were saved from Hades; and Tiphys first of all began to speak: "It is my hope that we have safely escaped this peril — we, and the ship; and none other is the cause so much as Athena, who breathed into Argo divine strength when Argus knitted her together with bolts; and she may not be caught. Son of Aeson, no longer fear thou so much the hest of thy king, since a god hath granted us escape between the rocks; for Phineus, Agenor's son, said that our toils hereafter would be lightly accomplished."

[619] He spake, and at once he sped the ship onward through the midst of the sea past the Bithynian coast. But Jason with gentle words addressed him in reply: "Tiphys, why dost thou comfort thus my grieving heart? I have erred and am distraught in wretched and helpless ruin. For I ought, when Pelias gave the command, to have straightway refused this quest to his face, yea, though I were doomed to die pitilessly, torn limb from limb, but now I am wrapped in excessive fear and cares unbearable, dreading to sail through the chilling paths of the sea, and dreading when we shall set foot on the mainland. For on every side are unkindly men. And ever when day is done I pass a night of groans from the time when ye first gathered together for my sake, while I take thought for all things; but thou talkest at thine ease, eating only for thine own life; while for myself I am dismayed not a whit; but I fear for this man and for that equally, and for thee, and for my other comrades, if I shall not bring you back safe to the land of Hellas."

[638] Thus he spake, making trial of the chiefs; but they shouted loud with cheerful words. And his heart was warmed within him at their cry and again he spake outright among them: "My friends, in your valour my courage is quickened. Wherefore now, even though I should take my way through the gulfs of Hades, no more shall I let fear seize upon me, since ye are steadfast amid cruel terrors. But now that we have sailed out from the striking rocks, I trow that never hereafter will there be another such fearful thing, if indeed we go on our way following the counsel of Phineus."

[648] Thus he spake, and straightway they ceased from such words and gave unwearying labour to the oar; and quickly they passed by the swiftly flowing river Rhebas and the peak of Colone, and soon thereafter the black headland, and near it the mouth of the river Phyllis, where aforetime Dipsaeus received in his home the son of Athamas, when with his ram he was flying from the city of Orchomenus; and Dipsacus was the son of a meadow-nymph, nor was insolence his delight, but contented by his father's stream he dwelt with his mother, pasturing his flocks by the shore. And quickly they sighted and sailed past his shrine and the broad banks of the river and the plain, and deep-flowing Calpe, and all the windless night and the day they bent to their tireless oars. And even as ploughing oxen toil as they cleave the moist earth, and sweat streams in abundance from flank and neck; and from beneath the yoke their eyes roll askance, while the breath ever rushes from their mouths in hot gasps; and all day long they toil, planting their hoofs deep in the ground; like them the heroes kept dragging their oars through the sea.

[669] Now when divine light has not yet come nor is it utter darkness, but a faint glimmer has spread over the night, the time when men wake and call it twilight, at that hour they ran into the harbour of the desert island Thynias and, spent by weary toil, mounted the shore. And to them the son of Leto, as he passed from Lycia far away to the countless folk of the Hyperboreans, appeared; and about his cheeks on both sides his golden locks flowed in clusters as he moved; in his left hand he held a silver bow, and on his back was slung a quiver hanging from his shoulders; and beneath his feet all the island quaked, and the waves surged high on the beach. Helpless amazement seized them as they looked; and no one dared to gaze face to face into the fair eyes of the god. And they stood with heads bowed to the ground; but he, far off, passed on to the sea through the air; and at length Orpheus spake as follows, addressing the chiefs: "Come, let us call this island the sacred isle of Apollo of the Dawn since he has appeared to all, passing by at dawn; and we will offer such sacrifices as we can, building an altar on the shore; and if hereafter he shall grant us a safe return to the Haemonian land, then will we lay on his altar the thighs of horned goats. And now I bid you propitiate him with the steam of sacrifice and libations. Be gracious, O king, be gracious in thy appearing."

[694] Thus he spake, and they straightway built up an altar with shingle; and over the island they wandered, seeking if haply they could get a glimpse of a

fawn or a wild goat, that often seek their pasture in the deep wood. And for them Leto's son provided a quarry; and with pious rites they wrapped in fat the thigh bones of them all and burnt them on the sacred altar, celebrating Apollo, Lord of Dawn. And round the burning sacrifice they set up a broad dancing-ring, singing, "All hail fair god of healing, Phoebus, all hail," and with them Oeagrus' goodly son began a clear lay on his Bistonian lyre; how once beneath the rocky ridge of Parnassus he slew with his bow the monster Delphyne, he, still young and beardless, still rejoicing in his long tresses. Mayst thou be gracious! Ever, O king, be thy locks unshorn, ever unravaged; for so is it right. And none but Leto, daughter of Coeus, strokes them with her dear hands. And often the Corycian nymphs, daughters of Pleistus, took up the cheering strain crying "Healer"; hence arose this lovely refrain of the hymn to Phoebus.

[714] Now when they had celebrated him with dance and song they took an oath with holy libations, that they would ever help each other with concord of heart, touching the sacrifice as they swore; and even now there stands there a temple to gracious Concord, which the heroes themselves reared, paying honour at that time to the glorious goddess.

[720] Now when the third morning came, with a fresh west wind they left the lofty island. Next, on the opposite side they saw and passed the mouth of the river Sangarius and the fertile land of the Mariandyni, and the stream of Lycus and the Anthemoesian lake; and beneath the breeze the ropes and all the tackling quivered as they sped onward. During the night the wind ceased and at dawn they gladly reached the haven of the Acherusian headland. It rises aloft with steep cliffs, looking towards the Bithynian sea; and beneath its smooth rocks, ever washed by the sea, stand rooted firm; and round them the wave rolls and thunders loud, but above, wide-spreading plane trees grow on the topmost point. And from it towards the land a hollow glen slopes gradually away, where there is a cave of Hades overarched by wood and rocks. From here an icy breath, unceasingly issuing from the chill recess, ever forms a glistening rime which melts again beneath the midday sun. And never does silence hold that grim headland, but there is a continual murmur from the sounding sea and the leaves that quiver in the winds from the cave. And here is the outfall of the river Acheron which bursts its way through the headland and falls into the Eastern sea, and a hollow ravine brings it down from above. In after times the Nisaeen Megarians named it Soonantes when they were about to settle in the land of the Mariandyni. For indeed the river saved them with their ships when they were caught in a violent tempest. By this way the heroes took the ship through the Acherusian headland and came to land over against it as the wind had just ceased.

[752] Not long had they come unmarked by Lycus, the lord of that land, and the Mariandyni — they, the slayers of Amycus, according to the report which the people heard before; but for that very deed they even made a league with the heroes. And Polydeuces himself they welcomed as a god, flocking from

every side, since for a long time had they been warring against the arrogant Bebrycians. And so they went up all together into the city, and all that day with friendly feelings made ready a feast within the palace of Lycus and gladdened their souls with converse. Aeson's son told him the lineage and name of each of his comrades and the behests of Pelias, and how they were welcomed by the Lemnian women, and all that they did at Dolionian Cyzicus; and how they reached the Mysian land and Cius, where, sore against their will, they left behind the hero Heracles, and he told the saying of Glaucus, and how they slew the Bebrycians and Amycus, and he told of the prophecies and affliction of Phineus, and how they escaped the Cyanean rocks, and how they met with Leto's son at the island. And as he told all, Lycus was charmed in soul with listening; and he grieved for Heracles left behind, and spake as follows among them all:

[774] "O friends, what a man he was from whose help ye have fallen away, as ye cleave your long path to Aeetes; for well do I know that I saw him here in the halls of Dascylus my father, when he came hither on foot through the land of Asia bringing the girdle of warlike Hippolyte; and me he found with the down just growing on my cheeks. And here, when my brother Priolas was slain by the Mysians — my brother, whom ever since the people lament with most piteous dirges — he entered the lists with Titias in boxing and slew him, mighty Titias, who surpassed all the youths in beauty and strength; and he dashed his teeth to the ground. Together with the Mysians he subdued beneath my father's sway the Phrygians also, who inhabit the lands next to us, and he made his own the tribes of the Bithynians and their land, as far as the mouth of Rhebas and the peak of Colone; and besides them the Paphlagonians of Pelops yielded just as they were, even all those round whom the dark water of Billaeus breaks. But now the Bebrycians and the insolence of Amycus have robbed me, since Heracles dwells far away, for they have long been cutting off huge pieces of my land until they have set their bounds at the meadows of deep-flowing Hypius. Nevertheless, by your hands have they paid the penalty; and it was not without the will of heaven, I trow, that he brought war on the Bebrycians this day — he, the son of Tyndareus, when he slew that champion. Wherefore whatever requital I am now able to pay, gladly will I pay it, for that is the rule for weaker men when the stronger begin to help them. So with you all, and in your company, I bid Dascylus my son follow; and if he goes, you will find all men friendly that ye meet on your way through the sea even to the mouth of the river Thermodon. And besides that, to the sons of Tyndareus will I raise a lofty temple on the Acherusian height, which all sailors shall mark far across the sea and shall reverence; and hereafter for them will I set apart outside the city, as for gods, some fertile fields of the well-tilled plain."

[811] Thus all day long they revelled at the banquet. But at dawn they hied down to the ship in haste; and with them went Lycus himself, when he had given them countless gifts to bear away; and with them he sent forth his son from his home.

[815] And here his destined fate smote Idmon, son of Abas, skilled in soothsaying; but not at all did his soothsaying save him, for necessity drew him on to death. For in the mead of the reedy river there lay, cooling his flanks and huge belly in the mud, a white-tusked boar, a deadly monster, whom even the nymphs of the marsh dreaded, and no man knew it; but all alone he was feeding in the wide fell. But the son of Abas was passing along the raised banks of the muddy river, and the boar from some unseen lair leapt out of the reed-bed, and charging gashed his thigh and severed in twain the sinews and the bone. And with a sharp cry the hero fell to the ground; and as he was struck his comrades flocked together with answering cry. And quickly Peleus with his hunting spear aimed at the murderous boar as he fled back into the fen; and again he turned and charged; but Idas wounded him, and with a roar he fell impaled upon the sharp spear. And the boar they left on the ground just as he had fallen there; but Idmon, now at the last gasp, his comrades bore to the ship in sorrow of heart, and he died in his comrades' arms.

[835] And here they stayed from taking thought for their voyaging and abode in grief for the burial of their dead friend. And for three whole days they lamented; and on the next they buried him with full honours, and the people and King Lycus himself took part in the funeral rites; and, as is the due of the departed, they slaughtered countless sheep at his tomb. And so a barrow to this hero was raised in that land, and there stands a token for men of later days to see, the trunk of a wild olive tree, such as ships are built of; and it flourishes with its green leaves a little below the Acherusian headland. And if at the bidding of the Muses I must tell this tale outright, Phoebus strictly commanded the Boeotians and Nisaeans to worship him as guardian of their city, and to build their city round the trunk of the ancient wild olive; but they, instead of the god-fearing Aeolid Idmon, at this day honour Agamestor.

[851] Who was the next that died? For then a second time the heroes heaped up a barrow for a comrade dead. For still are to be seen two monuments of those heroes. The tale goes that Tiphys son of Hagnias died; nor was it his destiny thereafter to sail any further. But him there on the spot a short sickness laid to rest far from his native land, when the company had paid due honours to the dead son of Abas. And at the cruel woe they were seized with unbearable grief. For when with due honours they had buried him also hard by the seer, they cast themselves down in helplessness on the sea-shore silently, closely wrapped up, and took no thought for meat or drink; and their spirit drooped in grief, for all hope of return was gone. And in their sorrow they would have stayed from going further had not Hera kindled exceeding courage in Ancaeus, whom near the waters of Imbrasus Astypalaea bore to Poseidon; for especially was he skilled in steering and eagerly did he address Peleus: "Son of Aeacus, is it well for us to give up our toils and linger on in a strange land? Not so much for my prowess in war did Jason take me with him in quest of the fleece, far from Parthenia, as for my knowledge of ships. Wherefore, I pray, let there be no fear for the ship. And so there are here other

men of skill, of whom none will harm our voyaging, whomsoever we set at the helm. But quickly tell forth all this and boldly urge them to call to mind their task."

[878] Thus he spake; and Peleus' soul was stirred with gladness, and straightway he spake in the midst of all: "My friends, why do we thus cherish a bootless grief like this? For those two have perished by the fate they have met with; but among our host are steersmen yet, and many a one. Wherefore let us not delay our attempt, but rouse yourselves to the work and cast away your griefs."

[885] And him in reply Aeson's son addressed with helpless words: "Son of Aeacus, where are these steersmen of thine? For those whom we once deemed to be men of skill, they even more than I are bowed with vexation of heart. Wherefore I forebode an evil doom for us even as for the dead, if it shall be our lot neither to reach the city of fell Aetes, nor ever again to pass beyond the rocks to the land of Hellas, but a wretched fate will enshroud us here ingloriously till we grow old for naught."

[894] Thus he spake, but Ancaeus quickly undertook to guide the swift ship; for he was stirred by the impulse of the goddess. And after him Erginus and Nauplius and Euphemus started up, eager to steer. But the others held them back, and many of his comrades granted it to Ancaeus.

[899] So on the twelfth day they went aboard at dawn, for a strong breeze of westerly wind was blowing. And quickly with the oars they passed out through the river Acheron and, trusting to the wind, shook out their sails, and with canvas spread far and wide they were cleaving their passage through the waves in fair weather. And soon they passed the outfall of the river Callichorus, where, as the tale goes, the Nysean son of Zeus, when he had left the tribes of the Indians and came to dwell at Thebes, held revels and arrayed dances in front of a cave, wherein he passed unsmiling sacred nights, from which time the neighbours call the river by the name of Callichorus and the cave Aulion.

[911] Next they beheld the barrow of Sthenelus, Actor's son, who on his way back from the valorous war against the Amazons — for he had been the comrade of Heracles — was struck by an arrow and died there upon the seabeach. And for a time they went no further, for Persephone herself sent forth the spirit of Actor's son which craved with many tears to behold men like himself, even for a moment. And mounting on the edge of the barrow he gazed upon the ship, such as he was when he went to war; and round his head a fair helm with four peaks gleamed with its blood-red crest. And again he entered the vast gloom; and they looked and marvelled; and Mopsus, son of Ampycus, with word of prophecy urged them to land and propitiate him with libations. Quickly they drew in sail and threw out hawsers, and on the strand paid honour to the tomb of Sthenelus, and poured out drink offerings to him and sacrificed sheep as victims. And besides the drink offerings they built an altar to Apollo, saviour of ships, and burnt thigh bones; and Orpheus

dedicated his lyre; whence the place has the name of Lyra.

[930] And straightway they went aboard as the wind blew strong; and they drew the sail down, and made it taut to both sheets; then Argo was borne over the sea swiftly, even as a hawk soaring high through the air commits to the breeze its outspread wings and is borne on swiftly, nor swerves in its flight, poising in the clear sky with quiet pinions. And lo, they passed by the stream of Parthenius as it flows into the sea, a most gentle river, where the maid, daughter of Leto, when she mounts to heaven after the chase, cools her limbs in its much-desired waters. Then they sped onward in the night without ceasing, and passed Sesamus and lofty Erythini, Crobialus, Cromna and woody Cytorus. Next they swept round Carambis at the rising of the sun, and plied the oars past long Aegialus, all day and on through the night.

[946] And straightway they landed on the Assyrian shore where Zeus himself gave a home to Sinope, daughter of Asopus, and granted her virginity, beguiled by his own promises. For he longed for her love, and he promised to grant her whatever her hearts desire might be. And she in her craftiness asked of him virginity. And in like manner she deceived Apollo too who longed to wed her, and besides them the river Halys, and no man ever subdued her in love's embrace. And there the sons of noble Deimachus of Tricca were still dwelling, Deileon, Autolycus and Phlogius, since the day when they wandered far away from Heracles; and they, when they marked the array of chieftains, went to meet them and declared in truth who they were; and they wished to remain there no longer, but as soon as Argestes blew went on ship-board. And so with them, borne along by the swift breeze, the heroes left behind the river Halys, and left behind his that flows hard by, and the delta-land of Assyria; and on the same day they rounded the distant headland of the Amazons that guards their harbour.

[966] Here once when Melanippe, daughter of Ares, had, gone forth, the hero Heracles caught her by ambushade and Hippolyte gave him her glistening girdle as her sister's ransom, and he sent away his captive unharmed. In the bay of this headland, at the outfall of Thermodon, they ran ashore, for the sea was rough for their voyage. No river is like this, and none sends forth from itself such mighty streams over the land. If a man should count every one he would lack but four of a hundred, but the real spring is only one. This flows down to the plain from lofty mountains, which, men say, are called the Amazonian mountains. Thence it spreads inland over a hilly country straight forward; wherefrom its streams go winding on, and they roll on, this way and that ever more, wherever best they can reach the lower ground, one at a distance and another near at hand; and many streams are swallowed up in the sand and are without a name; but, mingled with a few, the main stream openly bursts with its arching crest of foam into the inhospitable Pontus. And they would have tarried there and have closed in battle with the Amazons, and would have fought not without bloodshed for the Amazons were not gentle foes and regarded not justice, those dwellers on the Doeantian plain; but

grievous insolence and the works of Ares were all their care; for by race they were the daughters of Ares and the nymph Harmonia, who bare to Ares war-loving maids, wedded to him in the glens of the Acmonian wood had not the breezes of Argestes come again from Zeus; and with the wind they left the rounded beach, where the Themiscyreian Amazons were arming for war. For they dwelt not gathered together in one city, but scattered over the land, parted into three tribes. In one part dwelt the Themiscyreians, over whom at that time Hippolyte reigned, in another the Lycastians, and in another the dart-throwing Chadesians. And the next day they sped on and at nightfall they reached the land of the Chalybes.

[1002] That folk have no care for ploughing with oxen or for any planting of honey-sweet fruit; nor yet do they pasture flocks in the dewy meadow. But they cleave the hard iron-bearing land and exchange their wages for daily sustenance; never does the morn rise for them without toil, but amid bleak sooty flames and smoke they endure heavy labour.

[1009] And straightway thereafter they rounded the headland of Genetaean Zeus and sped safely past the land of the Tibareni. Here when wives bring forth children to their husbands, the men lie in bed and groan with their heads close bound; but the women tend them with food, and prepare child-birth baths for them.

[1015] Next they reached the sacred mount and the land where the Mossynoeci dwell amid high mountains in wooden huts, from which that people take their name. And strange are their customs and laws. Whatever it is right to do openly before the people or in the market place, all this they do in their homes, but whatever acts we perform at home, these they perform out of doors in the midst of the streets, without blame. And among them is no reverence for the marriage-bed, but, like swine that feed in herds, no whit abashed in others' presence, on the earth they lie with the women. Their king sits in the loftiest hut and dispenses upright judgments to the multitude, poor wretch! For if haply he err at all in his decrees, for that day they keep him shut up in starvation.

[1030] They passed them by and cleft their way with oars over against the island of Ares all day long; for at dusk the light breeze left them. At last they spied above them, hurtling through the air, one of the birds of Ares which haunt that isle. It shook its wings down over the ship as she sped on and sent against her a keen feather, and it fell on the left shoulder of goodly Oileus, and he dropped his oar from his hands at the sudden blow, and his comrades marvelled at the sight of the winged bolt. And Eribotes from his seat hard by drew out the feather, and bound up the wound when he had loosed the strap hanging from his own sword-sheath; and besides the first, another bird appeared swooping down; but the hero Clytius, son of Eurytus — for he bent his curved bow, and sped a swift arrow against the bird — struck it, and it whirled round and fell close to the ship. And to them spake Amphidamas, son of Aleus:

[1047] "The island of Ares is near us; you know it yourselves now that ye have seen these birds. But little will arrows avail us, I trow, for landing. But let us contrive some other device to help us, if ye intend to land, bearing in mind the injunction of Phineus. For not even could Heracles, when he came to Arcadia, drive away with bow and arrow the birds that swam on the Stympalian lake. I saw it myself. But he shook in his hand a rattle of bronze and made a loud clatter as he stood upon a lofty peak, and the birds fled far off, screeching in bewildered fear. Wherefore now too let us contrive some such device, and I myself will speak, having pondered the matter beforehand. Set on your heads your helmets of lofty crest, then half row by turns, and half fence the ship about with polished spears and shields. Then all together raise a mighty shout so that the birds may be scared by the unwonted din, the nodding crests, and the uplifted spears on high. And if we reach the island itself, then make mighty noise with the clashing of shields."

[1068] Thus he spake, and the helpful device pleased all. And on their heads they placed helmets of bronze, gleaming terribly, and the blood-red crests were tossing. And half of them rowed in turn, and the rest covered the ship with spears and shields. And as when a man roofs over a house with tiles, to be an ornament of his home and a defence against rain, and one the fits firmly into another, each after each; so they roofed over the ship with their shields, locking them together. And as a din arises from a warrior-host of men sweeping on, when lines of battle meet, such a shout rose upward from the ship into the air. Now they saw none of the birds yet, but when they touched the island and clashed upon their shields, then the birds in countless numbers rose in flight hither and thither. And as when the son of Cronos sends from the clouds a dense hailstorm on city and houses, and the people who dwell beneath hear the din above the roof and sit quietly, since the stormy season has not come upon them unawares, but they have first made strong their roofs; so the birds sent against the heroes a thick shower of feather-shafts as they darted over the sea to the mountains of the land opposite.

[1090] What then was the purpose of Phineus in bidding the divine band of heroes land there? Or what kind of help was about to meet their desire? The sons of Phrixus were faring towards the city of Orchomenus from Aea, coming from Cytaean Aeetes, on board a Colchian ship, to win the boundless wealth of their father; for he, when dying, had enjoined this journey upon them. And lo, on that day they were very near that island. But Zeus had impelled the north wind's might to blow, marking by rain the moist path of Arcturus; and all day long he was stirring the leaves upon the mountains, breathing gently upon the topmost sprays; but at night he rushed upon the sea with monstrous force, and with his shrieking blasts uplifted the surge; and a dark mist covered the heavens, nor did the bright stars anywhere appear from among the clouds, but a murky gloom brooded all around. And so the sons of Phrixus, drenched and trembling in fear of a horrible doom, were borne along by the waves helplessly. And the force of the wind had snatched away their

sails and shattered in twain the hull, tossed as it was by the breakers. And hereupon by heaven's prompting those four clutched a huge beam, one of many that were scattered about, held together by sharp bolts, when the ship broke to pieces. And on to the island the waves and the blasts of wind bore the men in their distress, within a little of death. And straightway a mighty rain burst forth, and rained upon the sea and the island, and all the country opposite the island, where the arrogant Mossynoeci dwelt. And the sweep of the waves hurled the sons of Phrixus, together with their massy beam, upon the beach of the island, in the murky night; and the floods of rain from Zeus ceased at sunrise, and soon the two bands drew near and met each other, and Argus spoke first: "We beseech you, by Zeus the Beholder, whoever ye are, to be kindly and to help us in our need. For fierce tempests, falling on the sea, have shattered all the timbers of the crazy ship in which we were cleaving our path on business bent. Wherefore we entreat you, if haply ye will listen, to grant us just a covering for our bodies, and to pity and succour men in misfortune, your equals in age. Oh, reverence suppliants and strangers for Zeus' sake, the god of strangers and suppliants. To Zeus belong both suppliants and strangers; and his eye, methinks, beholdeth even us."

[1134] And in reply the son of Aeson prudently questioned him, deeming that the prophecies of Phineus were being fulfilled: "All these things will we straightway grant you with right good will. But come tell me truly in what country ye dwell and what business bids you sail across the sea, and tell me your own glorious names and lineage."

[1140] And him Argus, helpless in his evil plight, addressed: "That one Phrixus an Aeolid reached Aea from Hellas you yourselves have clearly heard ere this, I trow; Phrixus, who came to the city of Aeetes, bestriding a ram, which Hermes had made all gold; and the fleece ye may see even now. The ram, at its own prompting, he then sacrificed to Zeus, son of Cronos, above all, the god of fugitives. And him did Aeetes receive in his palace, and with gladness of heart gave him his daughter Chalciope in marriage without gifts of wooing. From those two are we sprung. But Phrixus died at last, an aged man, in the home of Aeetes; and we, giving heed to our father's behests, are journeying to Orehomeus to take the possessions of Athamas. And if thou dost desire to learn our names, this is Cytissorus, this Phrontis, and this Melas, and me ye may call Argus."

[1157] Thus he spake, and the chieftains rejoiced at the meeting, and tended them, much marvelling. And Jason again in turn replied, as was fitting, with these words: "Surely ye are our kinsmen on my father's side, and ye pray that with kindly hearts we succour your evil plight. For Cretheus and Athamas were brothers. I am the grandson of Cretheus, and with these comrades here I am journeying from that same Hellas to the city of Aeetes. But of these things we will converse hereafter. And do ye first put clothing upon you. By heaven's devising, I ween, have ye come to my hands in your sore need."

[1168] He spake, and out of the ship gave them raiment to put on. Then all

together they went to the temple of Ares to offer sacrifice of sheep; and in haste they stood round the altar, which was outside the roofless temple, an altar built of pebbles; within a black stone stood fixed, a sacred thing, to which of yore the Amazons all used to pray. Nor was it lawful for them, when they came from the opposite coast, to burn on this altar offerings of sheep and oxen, but they used to slay horses which they kept in great herds. Now when they had sacrificed and eaten the feast prepared, then Aeson's son spake among them and thus began: "Zeus' self, I ween, beholds everything; nor do we men escape his eye, we that be god-fearing and just, for as he rescued your father from the hands of a murderous step-dame and gave him measureless wealth besides; even so hath he saved you harmless from the baleful storm. And on board this ship ye may sail hither and thither, where ye will, whether to Aea or to the wealthy city of divine Orthomenus. For our ship Athena built and with axe of bronze cut her timbers near the crest of Pelion, and with the goddess wrought Argus. But yours the fierce surge hath shattered, before ye came nigh to the rocks which all day long clash together in the straits of the sea. But come, be yourselves our helpers, for we are eager to bring to Hellas the golden fleece, and guide us on our voyage, for I go to atone for the intended sacrifice of Phrixus, the cause of Zeus' wrath against the sons of Aeolus."

[1196] He spake with soothing words; but horror seized them when they heard. For they deemed that they would not find Aeetes friendly if they desired to take away the ram's fleece. And Argus spake as follows, vexed that they should busy themselves with such a quest: "My friends, our strength, so far as it avails, shall never cease to help you, not one whit, when need shall come. But Aeetes is terribly armed with deadly ruthlessness; wherefore exceedingly do I dread this voyage. And he boasts himself to be the son of Helios; and all round dwell countless tribes of Colchians; and he might match himself with Ares in his dread war-cry and giant strength. Nay, to seize the fleece in spite of Aeetes is no easy task; so huge a serpent keeps guard round and about it, deathless and sleepless, which Earth herself brought forth on the sides of Caucasus, by the rock of Typhaon, where Typhaon, they say, smitten by the bolt of Zeus, son of Cronos, when he lifted against the god his sturdy hands, dropped from his head hot gore; and in such plight he reached the mountains and plain of Nysa, where to this day he lies whelmed beneath the waters of the Serbonian lake."

[1216] Thus he spake, and straightway many a cheek grew pale when they heard of so mighty an adventure. But quickly Peleus answered with cheering words, and thus spake: "Be not so fearful in spirit, my good friend. For we are not so lacking in prowess as to be no match for Aeetes to try his strength with arms; but I deem that we too are cunning in war, we that go thither, near akin to the blood of the blessed gods. Wherefore if he will not grant us the fleece of gold for friendship's sake, the tribes of the Colchians will not avail him, I ween."

[1226] Thus they addressed each other in turn, until again, satisfied with their feast, they turned to rest. And when they rose at dawn a gentle breeze was blowing; and they raised the sails, which strained to the rush of the wind, and quickly they left behind the island of Ares.

[1231] And at nightfall they came to the island of Philyra, where Cronos, son of Uranus, what time in Olympus he reigned over the Titans, and Zeus was yet being nurtured in a Cretan cave by the Curetes of Ida, lay beside Philyra, when he had deceived Rhea; and the goddess found them in the midst of their dalliance; and Cronos leapt up from the couch with a rush in the form of a steed with flowing mane, but Ocean's daughter, Philyra, in shame left the spot and those haunts, and came to the long Pelasgian ridges, where by her union with the transfigured deity she brought forth huge Cheiron, half like a horse, half like a god.

[1242] Thence they sailed on, past the Macrones and the far-stretching land of the Becheiri and the overweening Sapeires, and after them the Byzeres; for ever forward they clave their way, quickly borne by the gentle breeze. And lo, as they sped on, a deep gulf of the sea was opened, and lo, the steep crags of the Caucasian mountains rose up, where, with his limbs bound upon the hard rocks by galling fetters of bronze, Prometheus fed with his liver an eagle that ever rushed back to its prey. High above the ship at even they saw it flying with a loud whirr, near the clouds; and yet it shook all the sails with the fanning of those huge wings. For it had not the form of a bird of the air but kept poising its long wing-feathers like polished oars. And not long after they heard the bitter cry of Prometheus as his liver was being torn away; and the air rang with his screams until they marked the ravening eagle rushing back from the mountain on the self-same track. And at night, by the skill of Argus, they reached broad-flowing Phasis, and the utmost bourne of the sea.

[1262] And straightway they let down the sails and the yard-arm and stowed them inside the hollow mast-crutch, and at once they lowered the mast itself till it lay along; and quickly with oars they entered the mighty stream of the river; and round the prow the water surged as it gave them way. And on their left hand they had lofty Caucasus and the Cytaean city of Aea, and on the other side the plain of Ares and the sacred grove of that god, where the serpent was keeping watch and ward over the fleece as it hung on the leafy branches of an oak. And Aeson's son himself from a golden goblet poured into the river libations of honey and pure wine to Earth and to the gods of the country, and to the souls of dead heroes; and he besought them of their grace to give kindly aid, and to welcome their ship's hawsers with favourable omen. And straightway Ancaeus spake these words: "We have reached the Colchian land and the stream of Phasis; and it is time for us to take counsel whether we shall make trial of Aeetes with soft words, or an attempt of another kind shall be fitting."

[1281] Thus he spake, and by the advice of Argus Jason bade them enter a shaded backwater and let the ship ride at anchor off shore; and it was near at

hand in their course and there they passed the night. And soon the dawn appeared to their expectant eyes.

BOOK III.

[1] Come now, Erato, stand by my side, and say next how Jason brought back the fleece to Iolcus aided by the love of Medea. For thou sharest the power of Cypris, and by thy love-cares dost charm unwedded maidens; wherefore to thee too is attached a name that tells of love.

[6] Thus the heroes, unobserved, were waiting in ambush amid the thick reed-beds; but Hera and Athena took note of them, and, apart from Zeus and the other immortals, entered a chamber and took counsel together; and Hera first made trial of Athena: "Do thou now first, daughter of Zeus, give advice. What must be done? Wilt thou devise some scheme whereby they may seize the golden fleece of Aeetes and bear it to Hellas, or can they deceive the king with soft words and so work persuasion? Of a truth he is terribly overweening. Still it is right to shrink from no endeavour."

[17] Thus she spake, and at once Athena addressed her: "I too was pondering such thoughts in my heart, Hera, when thou didst ask me outright. But not yet do I think that I have conceived a scheme to aid the courage of the heroes, though I have balanced many plans."

[22] She ended, and the goddesses fixed their eyes on the ground at their feet, brooding apart; and straightway Hera was the first to speak her thought: "Come, let us go to Cypris; let both of us accost her and urge her to bid her son (if only he will obey) speed his shaft at the daughter of Aeetes, the enchantress, and charm her with love for Jason. And I deem that by her device he will bring back the fleece to Hellas."

[30] Thus she spake, and the prudent plan pleased Athena, and she addressed her in reply with gentle words: "Hera, my father begat me to be a stranger to the darts of love, nor do I know any charm to work desire. But if the word pleases thee, surely I will follow; but thou must speak when we meet her."

[36] So she said, and starting forth they came to the mighty palace of Cypris, which her husband, the halt-footed god, had built for her when first he brought her from Zeus to be his wife. And entering the court they stood beneath the gallery of the chamber where the goddess prepared the couch of Hephaestus. But he had gone early to his forge and anvils to a broad cavern in a floating island where with the blast of flame he wrought all manner of curious work; and she all alone was sitting within, on an inlaid seat facing the door. And her white shoulders on each side were covered with the mantle of her hair and she was parting it with a golden comb and about to braid up the long tresses; but when she saw the goddesses before her, she stayed and called them within, and rose from her seat and placed them on couches. Then she herself sat down, and with her hands gathered up the locks still uncombed. And smiling she addressed them with crafty words: "Good friends, what intent, what occasion brings you here after so long? Why have ye come, not too frequent visitors before, chief among goddesses that ye are?"

[55] And to her Hera replied: "Thou dost mock us, but our hearts are stirred with calamity. For already on the river Phasis the son of Aeson moors his ship, he and his comrades in quest of the fleece. For all their sakes we fear terribly (for the task is nigh at hand) but most for Aeson's son. Him will I deliver, though he sail even to Hades to free Ixion below from his brazen chains, as far as strength lies in my limbs, so that Pelias may not mock at having escaped an evil doom — Pelias who left me unhonoured with sacrifice. Moreover Jason was greatly loved by me before, ever since at the mouth of Anaurus in flood, as I was making trial of men's righteousness, he met me on his return from the chase; and all the mountains and long ridged peaks were sprinkled with snow, and from them the torrents rolling down were rushing with a roar. And he took pity on me in the likeness of an old crone, and raising me on his shoulders himself bore me through the headlong tide. So he is honoured by me unceasingly; nor will Pelias pay the penalty of his outrage, unless thou wilt grant Jason his return."

[76] Thus she spake, and speechlessness seized Cypris. And beholding Hera supplicating her she felt awe, and then addressed her with friendly words: "Dread goddess, may no viler thing than Cypris ever be found, if I disregard thy eager desire in word or deed, whatever my weak arms can effect; and let there be no favour in return."

[83] She spake, and Hera again addressed her with prudence: "It is not in need of might or of strength that we have come. But just quietly bid thy boy charm Aeetes' daughter with love for Jason. For if she will aid him with her kindly counsel, easily do I think he will win the fleece of gold and return to Iolcus, for she is full of wiles."

[90] Thus she spake, and Cypris addressed them both: "Hera and Athena, he will obey you rather than me. For unabashed though he is, there will be some slight shame in his eyes before you; but he has no respect for me, but ever slights me in contentious mood. And, overborne by his naughtiness, I purpose to break his ill-sounding arrows and his bow in his very sight. For in his anger he has threatened that if I shall not keep my hands off him while he still masters his temper, I shall have cause to blame myself thereafter."

[100] So she spake, and the goddesses smiled and looked at each other. But Cypris again spoke, vexed at heart: "To others my sorrows are a jest; nor ought I to tell them to all; I know them too well myself. But now, since this pleases you both, I will make the attempt and coax him, and he will not say me nay."

[106] Thus she spake, and Hera took her slender hand and gently smiling, replied: "Perform this task, Cytherea, straightway, as thou sayest; and be not angry or contend with thy boy; he will cease hereafter to vex thee."

[111] She spake, and left her seat, and Athena accompanied her and they went forth both hastening back. And Cypris went on her way through the glens of Olympus to find her boy. And she found him apart, in the blooming orchard of Zeus, not alone, but with him Ganymedes, whom once Zeus had

set to dwell among the immortal gods, being enamoured of his beauty. And they were playing for golden dice, as boys in one house are wont to do. And already greedy Eros was holding the palm of his left hand quite full of them under his breast, standing upright; and on the bloom of his cheeks a sweet blush was glowing. But the other sat crouching hard by, silent and downcast, and he had two dice left which he threw one after the other, and was angered by the loud laughter of Eros. And lo, losing them straightway with the former, he went off empty handed, helpless, and noticed not the approach of Cypris.

[127] And she stood before her boy, and laying her hand on his lips, addressed him: "Why dost thou smile in triumph, unutterable rogue? Hast thou cheated him thus, and unjustly overcome the innocent child? Come, be ready to perform for me the task I will tell thee of, and I will give thee Zeus' all-beauteous plaything — the one which his dear nurse Adrasteia made for him, while he still lived a child, with childish ways, in the Idaean cave — a well-rounded ball; no better toy wilt thou get from the hands of Hephaestus. All of gold are its zones, and round each double seams run in a circle; but the stitches are hidden, and a dark blue spiral overlays them all. But if thou shouldst cast it with thy hands, lo, like a star, it sends a flaming track through the sky. This I will give thee; and do thou strike with thy shaft and charm the daughter of Aeetes with love for Jason; and let there be no loitering. For then my thanks would be the slighter."

[145] Thus she spake, and welcome were her words to the listening boy. And he threw down all his toys, and eagerly seizing her robe on this side and on that, clung to the goddess. And he implored her to bestow the gift at once; but she, facing him with kindly words, touched his cheeks, kissed him and drew him to her, and replied with a smile: "Be witness now thy dear head and mine, that surely I will give thee the gift and deceive thee not, if thou wilt strike with thy shaft Aeetes' daughter."

[154] She spoke, and he gathered up his dice, and having well counted them all threw them into his mother's gleaming lap. And straightway with golden baldric he slung round him his quiver from where it leant against a tree-trunk, and took up his curved bow. And he fared forth through the fruitful orchard of the palace of Zeus. Then he passed through the gates of Olympus high in air; hence is a downward path from heaven; and the twin poles rear aloft steep mountain tops the highest crests of earth, where the risen sun grows ruddy with his first beams. And beneath him there appeared now the life-giving earth and cities of men and sacred streams of rivers, and now in turn mountain peaks and the ocean all around, as he swept through the vast expanse of air.

[167] Now the heroes apart in ambush, in a back-water of the river, were met in council, sitting on the benches of their ship. And Aeson's son himself was speaking among them; and they were listening silently in their places sitting row upon row: "My friends, what pleases myself that will I say out; it is for you to bring about its fulfilment. For in common is our task, and common to all alike is the right of speech; and he who in silence withholds his thought

and his counsel, let him know that it is he alone that bereaves this band of its home-return. Do ye others rest here in the ship quietly with your arms; but I will go to the palace of Aeetes, taking with me the sons of Phrixus and two comrades as well. And when I meet him I will first make trial with words to see if he will be willing to give up the golden fleece for friendship's sake or not, but trusting to his might will set at nought our quest. For so, learning his frowardness first from himself, we will consider whether we shall meet him in battle, or some other plan shall avail us, if we refrain from the war-cry. And let us not merely by force, before putting words to the test, deprive him of his own possession. But first it is better to go to him and win his favour by speech. Oftentimes, I ween, does speech accomplish at need what prowess could hardly catty through, smoothing the path in manner befitting. And he once welcomed noble Phrixus, a fugitive from his stepmother's wiles and the sacrifice prepared by his father. For all men everywhere, even the most shameless, reverence the ordinance of Zeus, god of strangers, and regard it."

[194] Thus he spake, and the youths approved the words of Aeson's son with one accord, nor was there one to counsel otherwise. And then he summoned to go with him the sons of Phrixus, and Telamon and Augeias; and himself took Hermes' wand; and at once they passed forth from the ship beyond the reeds and the water to dry land, towards the rising ground of the plain. The plain, I wis, is called Circe's; and here in line grow many willows and osiers, on whose topmost branches hang corpses bound with cords. For even now it is an abomination with the Colchians to burn dead men with fire; nor is it lawful to place them in the earth and raise a mound above, but to wrap them in untanned oxhides and suspend them from trees far from the city. And so earth has an equal portion with air, seeing that they bury the women; for that is the custom of their land.

[210] And as they went Hera with friendly thought spread a thick mist through the city, that they might fare to the palace of Aeetes unseen by the countless hosts of the Colchians. But soon when from the plain they came to the city and Aeetes' palace, then again Hera dispersed the mist. And they stood at the entrance, marvelling at the king's courts and the wide gates and columns which rose in ordered lines round the walls; and high up on the palace a coping of stone rested on brazen triglyphs. And silently they crossed the threshold. And close by garden vines covered with green foliage were in full bloom, lifted high in air. And beneath them ran four fountains, ever-flowing, which Hephaestus had delved out. One was gushing with milk, one with wine, while the third flowed with fragrant oil; and the fourth ran with water, which grew warm at the setting of the Pleiads, and in turn at their rising bubbled forth from the hollow rock, cold as crystal. Such then were the wondrous works that the craftsman-god Hephaestus had fashioned in the palace of Cytaean Aeetes. And he wrought for him bulls with feet of bronze, and their mouths were of bronze, and from them they breathed out a terrible flame of fire; moreover he forged a plough of unbending adamant, all in one

piece, in payment of thanks to Helios, who had taken the god up in his chariot when faint from the Phlegraeon fight. And here an inner-court was built, and round it were many well-fitted doors and chambers here and there, and all along on each side was a richly-wrought gallery. And on both sides loftier buildings stood obliquely. In one, which was the loftiest, lordly Aeetes dwelt with his queen; and in another dwelt Apsyrtus, son of Aeetes, whom a Caucasian nymph, Asterodeia, bare before he made Eidyia his wedded wife, the youngest daughter of Tethys and Oceanus. And the sons of the Colchians called him by the new name of Phaethon, because he outshone all the youths. The other buildings the handmaidens had, and the two daughters of Aeetes, Chalciope and Medea. Medea then [they found] going from chamber to chamber in search of her sister, for Hera detained her within that day; but beforetime she was not wont to haunt the palace, but all day long was busied in Hecate's temple, since she herself was the priestess of the goddess. And when she saw them she cried aloud, and quickly Chalciope caught the sound; and her maids, throwing down at their feet their yarn and their thread, rushed forth all in a throng. And she, beholding her sons among them, raised her hands aloft through joy; and so they likewise greeted their mother, and when they saw her embraced her in their gladness; and she with many sobs spoke thus: "After all then, ye were not destined to leave me in your heedlessness and to wander far; but fate has turned you back. Poor wretch that I am! What a yearning for Hellas from some woeful madness seized you at the behest of your father Phrixus. Bitter sorrows for my heart did he ordain when dying. And why should ye go to the city of Orchomenus, whoever this Orchomenus is, for the sake of Athamas' wealth, leaving your mother alone to bear her grief?"

[268] Such were her words; and Aeetes came forth last of all and Eidyia herself came, the queen of Aeetes, on hearing the voice of Chalciope; and straightway all the court was filled with a throng. Some of the thralls were busied with a mighty bull, others with the axe were cleaving dry billets, and others heating with fire water for the baths; nor was there one who relaxed his toil, serving the king.

[275] Meantime Eros passed unseen through the grey mist, causing confusion, as when against grazing heifers rises the gadfly, which oxherds call the breese. And quickly beneath the lintel in the porch he strung his bow and took from the quiver an arrow unshot before, messenger of pain. And with swift feet unmarked he passed the threshold and keenly glanced around; and gliding close by Aeson's son he laid the arrow-notch on the cord in the centre, and drawing wide apart with both hands he shot at Medea; and speechless amazement seized her soul. But the god himself flashed back again from the high-roofed hall, laughing loud; and the bolt burnt deep down in the maiden's heart like a flame; and ever she kept darting bright glances straight up at Aeson's son, and within her breast her heart panted fast through anguish, all remembrance left her, and her soul melted with the sweet pain. And as a poor

woman heaps dry twigs round a blazing brand — a daughter of toil, whose task is the spinning of wool, that she may kindle a blaze at night beneath her roof, when she has waked very early — and the flame waxing wondrous great from the small brand consumes all the twigs together; so, coiling round her heart, burnt secretly Love the destroyer; and the hue of her soft cheeks went and came, now pale, now red, in her soul's distraction.

[299] Now when the thralls had laid a banquet ready before them, and they had refreshed themselves with warm baths, gladly did they please their souls with meat and drink. And thereafter Aetes questioned the sons of his daughter, addressing them with these words: "Sons of my daughter and of Phrixus, whom beyond all strangers I honoured in my halls, how have ye come returning back to Aea? Did some calamity cut short your escape in the midst? Ye did not listen when I set before you the boundless length of the way. For I marked it once, whirled along in the chariot of my father Helios, when he was bringing my sister Circe to the western land and we came to the shore of the Tyrrhenian mainland, where even now she abides, exceeding far from Colchis. But what pleasure is there in words? Do ye tell me plainly what has been your fortune, and who these men are, your companions, and where from your hollow ship ye came ashore."

[317] Such were his questions, and Argus, before all his brethren, being fearful for the mission of Aeson's son, gently replied, for he was the elder-born: "Aetes, that ship forthwith stormy blasts tore asunder, and ourselves, crouching on the beams, a wave drove on to the beach of the isle of Enyalios in the murky night; and some god preserved us. For even the birds of Ares that haunted the desert isle beforetime, not even them did we find. But these men had driven them off, having landed from their ship on the day before; and the will of Zeus taking pity on us, or some fate, detained them there, since they straightway gave us both food and clothing in abundance, when they heard the illustrious name of Phrixus and thine own; for to thy city are they faring. And if thou dost wish to know their errand, I will not hide it from time. A certain king, vehemently longing to drive this man far from his fatherland and possessions, because in might he outshone all the sons of Aeolus, sends him to voyage hither on a bootless venture; and asserts that the stock of Aeolus will not escape the heart-grieving wrath and rage of implacable Zeus, nor the unbearable curse and vengeance due for Phrixus, until the fleece comes back to Hellas. And their ship was fashioned by Pallas Athena, not such a one as are the ships among the Colchians, on the vilest of which we chanced. For the fierce waves and wind broke her utterly to pieces; but the other holds firm with her bolts, even though all the blasts should buffet her. And with equal swiftness she speedeth before the wind and when the crew ply the oar with unresting hands. And he hath gathered in her the mightiest heroes of all Achaea, and hath come to thy city from wandering far through cities and gulfs of the dread ocean, in the hope that thou wilt grant him the fleece. But as thou dost please, so shall it be, for he cometh not to use force, but is eager to

pay thee a recompense for the gift. He has heard from me of thy bitter foes the Sauromatae, and he will subdue them to thy sway. And if thou desirest to know their names and lineage I will tell thee all. This man on whose account the rest were gathered from Hellas, they call Jason, son of Aeson, whom Cretheus begat. And if in truth he is of the stock of Cretheus himself, thus he would be our kinsman on the father's side. For Cretheus and Athamas were both sons of Aeolus; and Phrixus was the son of Athamas, son of Aeolus. And here, if thou hast heard at all of the seed of Helios, thou dost behold Augeias; and this is Telamon sprung from famous Aeacus; and Zeus himself begat Aeacus. And so all the rest, all the comrades that follow him, are the sons or grandsons of the immortals."

[367] Such was the tale of Argus; but the king at his words was filled with rage as he heard; and his heart was lifted high in wrath. And he spake in heavy displeasure; and was angered most of all with the son of Chalciope; for he deemed that on their account the strangers had come; and in his fury his eyes flashed forth beneath his brows: "Begone from my sight, felons, straightway, ye and your tricks, from the land, ere someone see a fleece and a Phrixus to his sorrow. Banded together with your friends from Hellas, not for the fleece, but to seize my sceptre and royal power have ye come hither. Had ye not first tasted of my table, surely would I have cut out your tongues and hewn off both hands and sent you forth with your feet alone, so that ye might be stayed from starting hereafter. And what lies have ye uttered against the blessed gods!"

[382] Thus he spake in his wrath; and mightily from its depths swelled the heart of Aeacus' son, and his soul within longed to speak a deadly word in defiance, but Aeson's son checked him, for he himself first made gentle answer: "Aeetes, bear with this armed band, I pray. For not in the way thou deemest have we come to thy city and palace, no, nor yet with such desires. For who would of his own will dare to cross so wide a sea for the goods of a stranger? But fate and the ruthless command of a presumptuous king urged me. Grant a favour to thy suppliants, and to all Hellas will I publish a glorious fame of thee; yea, we are ready now to pay thee a swift recompense in war, whether it be the Sauromatae or some other people that thou art eager to subdue to thy sway."

[396] He spake, flattering him with gentle utterance; but the king's soul brooded a twofold purpose within him, whether he should attack and slay them on the spot or should make trial of their might. And this, as he pondered, seemed the better way, and he addressed Jason in answer: "Stranger, why needest thou go through thy tale to the end? For if ye are in truth of heavenly race, or have come in no wise inferior to me, to win the goods of strangers, I will give thee the fleece to bear away, if thou dost wish, when I have tried thee. For against brave men I bear no grudge, such as ye yourselves tell me of him who bears sway in Hellas. And the trial of your courage and might shall be a contest which I myself can compass with my hands, deadly though it be.

Two bulls with feet of bronze I have that pasture on the plain of Ares, breathing forth flame from their jaws; them do I yoke and drive over the stubborn field of Ares, four plough-gates; and quickly cleaving it with the share up to the headland, I cast into the furrows the seed, not the corn of Demeter, but the teeth of a dread serpent that grow up into the fashion of armed men; them I slay at once, cutting them down beneath my spear as they rise against me on all sides. In the morning do I yoke the oxen, and at eventide I cease from the harvesting. And thou, if thou wilt accomplish such deeds as these, on that very day shalt carry off the fleece to the king's palace; ere that time comes I will not give it, expect it not. For indeed it is unseemly that a brave man should yield to a coward."

[422] Thus he spake; and Jason, fixing his eyes on the ground, sat just as he was, speechless, helpless in his evil plight. For a long time he turned the matter this way and that, and could in no way take on him the task with courage, for a mighty task it seemed; and at last he made reply with crafty words: "With thy plea of right, Aeetes, thou dost shut me in overmuch. Wherefore also I will dare that contest, monstrous as it is, though it be my doom to die. For nothing will fall upon men more dread than dire necessity, which indeed constrained me to come hither at a king's command."

[432] Thus he spake, smitten by his helpless plight; and the king with grim words addressed him, sore troubled as he was: "Go forth now to the gathering, since thou art eager for the toil; but if thou shouldst fear to lift the yoke upon the oxen or shrink from the deadly harvesting, then all this shall be my care, so that another too may shudder to come to a man that is better than he."

[439] He spake outright; and Jason rose from his seat, and Augeias and Telamon at once; and Argus followed alone, for he signed to his brothers to stay there on the spot meantime; and so they went forth from the hall. And wonderfully among them all shone the son of Aeson for beauty and grace; and the maiden looked at him with stealthy glance, holding her bright veil aside, her heart smouldering with pain; and her soul creeping like a dream flitted in his track as he went. So they passed forth from the palace sorely troubled. And Chalciope, shielding herself from the wrath of Aeetes, had gone quickly to her chamber with her sons. And Medea likewise followed, and much she brooded in her soul all the cares that the Loves awaken. And before her eyes the vision still appeared — himself what like he was, with what vesture he was clad, what things he spake, how he sat on his seat, how he moved forth to the door — and as she pondered she deemed there never was such another man; and ever in her ears rung his voice and the honey-sweet words which he uttered. And she feared for him, lest the oxen or Aeetes with his own hand should slay him; and she mourned him as though already slain outright, and in her affliction a round tear through very grievous pity coursed down her cheek; and gently weeping she lifted up her voice aloud: "Why does this grief come upon me, poor wretch? Whether he be the best of heroes now about to perish, or the worst, let him go to his doom. Yet I would that he had escaped

unharm'd; yea, may this be so, revered goddess, daughter of Perses, may he avoid death and return home; but if it be his lot to be o'er-mastered by the oxen, may he first learn this, that I at least do not rejoice in his cruel calamity."

[471] Thus then was the maiden's heart racked by love- cares. But when the others had gone forth from the people and the city, along the path by which at the first they had come from the plain, then Argus addressed Jason with these words: "Son of Aeson, thou wilt despise the counsel which I will tell thee, but, though in evil plight, it is not fitting to forbear from the trial. Ere now thou hast heard me tell of a maiden that uses sorcery under the guidance of Hecate, Perses' daughter. If we could win her aid there will be no dread, methinks, of thy defeat in the contest; but terribly do I fear that my mother will not take this task upon her. Nevertheless I will go back again to entreat her, for a common destruction overhangs us all."

[483] He spake with goodwill, and Jason answered with these words: "Good friend, if this is good in thy sight, I say not nay. Go and move thy mother, beseeching her aid with prudent words; pitiful indeed is our hope when we have put our return in the keeping of women." So he spake, and quickly they reached the back-water. And their comrades joyfully questioned them, when they saw them close at hand; and to them spoke Aeson's son grieved at heart: "My friends, the heart of ruthless Aeetes is utterly filled with wrath against us, for not at all can the goal be reached either by me or by you who question me. He said that two bulls with feet of bronze pasture on the plain of Ares, breathing forth flame from their jaws. And with these he bade me plough the field, four plough-gates; and said that he would give me from a serpent's jaws seed which will raise up earthborn men in armour of bronze; and on the same day I must slay them. This task — for there was nothing better to devise — I took on myself outright."

[502] Thus he spake; and to all the contest seemed one that none could accomplish, and long, quiet and silent, they looked at one another, bowed down with the calamity and their despair; but at last Peleus spake with courageous words among all the chiefs: "It is time to be counselling what we shall do. Yet there is not so much profit, I trow, in counsel as in the might of our hands. If thou then, hero son of Aeson, art minded to yoke Aeetes' oxen, and art eager for the toil, surely thou wilt keep thy promise and make thyself ready. But if thy soul trusts not her prowess utterly, then neither bestir thyself nor sit still and look round for some one else of these men. For it is not I who will flinch, since the bitterest pain will be but death."

[515] So spake the son of Aeacus; and Telamon's soul was stirred, and quickly he started up in eagerness; and Idas rose up the third in his pride; and the twin sons of Tyndareus; and with them Oeneus' son who was numbered among strong men, though even the soft down on his cheek showed not yet; with such courage was his soul uplifted. But the others gave way to these in silence. And straightway Argus spake these words to those that longed for the

contest: "My friends, this indeed is left us at the last. But I deem that there will come to you some timely aid from my mother. Wherefore, eager though ye be, refrain and abide in your ship a little longer as before, for it is better to forbear than recklessly to choose an evil fate. There is a maiden, nurtured in the halls of Aetes, whom the goddess Hecate taught to handle magic herbs with exceeding skill all that the land and flowing waters produce. With them is quenched the blast of unwearied flame, and at once she stays the course of rivers as they rush roaring on, and checks the stars and the paths of the sacred moon. Of her we bethought us as we came hither along the path from the palace, if haply my mother, her own sister, might persuade her to aid us in the venture. And if this is pleasing to you as well, surely on this very day will I return to the palace of Aetes to make trial; and perchance with some god's help shall I make the trial."

[540] Thus he spake, and the gods in their goodwill gave them a sign. A trembling dove in her flight from a mighty hawk fell from on high, terrified, into the lap of Aeson's son, and the hawk fell impaled on the stern-ornament. And quickly Mopsus with prophetic words spake among them all: "For you, friends, this sign has been wrought by the will of heaven; in no other way is it possible to interpret its meaning better, than to seek out the maiden and entreat her with manifold skill. And I think she will not reject our prayer, if in truth Phineus said that our return should be with the help of the Cyprian goddess. It was her gentle bird that escaped death; and as my heart within me foresees according to this omen, so may it prove! But, my friends, let us call on Cytherea to aid us, and now at once obey the counsels of Argus."

[555] He spake, and the warriors approved, remembering the injunctions of Phineus; but all alone leapt up Apharcian Idas and shouted loudly in terrible wrath: "Shame on us, have we come here fellow voyagers with women, calling on Cypris for help and not on the mighty strength of Enyalios? And do ye look to doves and hawks to save yourselves from contests? Away with you, take thought not for deeds of war, but by supplication to beguile weakling girls."

[564] Such were his eager words; and of his comrades many murmured low, but none uttered a word of answer back. And he sat down in wrath; and at once Jason roused them and uttered his own thought: "Let Argus set forth from the ship, since this pleases all; but we will now move from the river and openly fasten our hawsers to the shore. For surely it is not fitting for us to hide any longer cowering from the battle-cry."

[572] So he spake, and straightway sent Argus to return in haste to the city; and they drew the anchors on board at the command of Aeson's son, and rowed the ship close to the shore, a little away from the back-water.

[576] But straightway Aetes held an assembly of the Colchians far aloof from his palace at a spot where they sat in times before, to devise against the Minyae grim treachery and troubles. And he threatened that when first the oxen should have torn in pieces the man who had taken upon him to perform

the heavy task, he would hew down the oak grove above the wooded hill, and burn the ship and her crew, that so they might vent forth in ruin their grievous insolence, for all their haughty schemes. For never would he have welcomed the Aeolid Phrixus as a guest in his halls, in spite of his sore need, Phrixus, who surpassed all strangers in gentleness and fear of the gods, had not Zeus himself sent Hermes his messenger down from heaven, so that he might meet with a friendly host; much less would pirates coming to his land be let go scatheless for long, men whose care it was to lift their hands and seize the goods of others, and to weave secret webs of guile, and harry the steadings of herdsmen with ill-sounding forays. And he said that besides all that the sons of Phrixus should pay a fitting penalty to himself for returning in consort with evildoers, that they might recklessly drive him from his honour and his throne; for once he had heard a baleful prophecy from his father Helios, that he must avoid the secret treachery and schemes of his own offspring and their crafty mischief. Wherefore he was sending them, as they desired, to the Achaean land at the bidding of their father — a long journey. Nor had he ever so slight a fear of his daughters, that they would form some hateful scheme, nor of his son Apsyrus; but this curse was being fulfilled in the children of Chalciope. And he proclaimed terrible things in his rage against the strangers, and loudly threatened to keep watch over the ship and its crew, so that no one might escape calamity.

[609] Meantime Argus, going to Aeetes' palace, with manifold pleading besought his mother to pray Medea's aid; and Chalciope herself already had the same thoughts, but fear checked her soul lest haply either fate should withstand and she should entreat her in vain, all distraught as she would be at her father's deadly wrath, or, if Medea yielded to her prayers, her deeds should be laid bare and open to view.

[616] Now a deep slumber had relieved the maiden from her love-pains as she lay upon her couch. But straightway fearful dreams, deceitful, such as trouble one in grief, assailed her. And she thought that the stranger had taken on him the contest, not because he longed to win the ram's fleece, and that he had not come on that account to Aeetes' city, but to lead her away, his wedded wife, to his own home; and she dreamed that herself contended with the oxen and wrought the task with exceeding ease; and that her own parents set at naught their promise, for it was not the maiden they had challenged to yoke the oxen but the stranger himself; from that arose a contention of doubtful issue between her father and the strangers; and both laid the decision upon her, to be as she should direct in her mind. But she suddenly, neglecting her parents, chose the stranger. And measureless anguish seized them and they shouted out in their wrath; and with the cry sleep released its hold upon her. Quivering with fear she started up, and stared round the walls of her chamber, and with difficulty did she gather her spirit within her as before, and lifted her voice aloud: "Poor wretch, how have gloomy dreams affrighted me! I fear that this voyage of the heroes will bring some great evil. My heart is trembling for

the stranger. Let him woo some Achaean girl far away among his own folk; let maidenhood be mine and the home of my parents. Yet, taking to myself a reckless heart, I will no more keep aloof but will make trial of my sister to see if she will entreat me to aid in the contest, through grief for her own sons; this would quench the bitter pain in my heart."

[645] She spake, and rising from her bed opened the door of her chamber, bare-footed, clad in one robe; and verily she desired to go to her sister, and crossed the threshold. And for long she stayed there at the entrance of her chamber, held back by shame; and she turned back once more; and again she came forth from within, and again stole back; and idly did her feet bear her this way and that; yea, as oft as she went straight on, shame held her within the chamber, and though held back by shame, bold desire kept urging her on. Thrice she made the attempt and thrice she checked herself, the fourth time she fell on her bed face downward, writhing in pain. And as when a bride in her chamber bewails her youthful husband, to whom her brothers and parents have given her, nor yet does she hold converse with all her attendants for shame and for thinking of him; but she sits apart in her grief; and some doom has destroyed him, before they have had pleasure of each other's charms; and she with heart on fire silently weeps, beholding her widowed couch, in fear lest the women should mock and revile her; like to her did Medea lament. And suddenly as she was in the midst of her tears, one of the handmaids came forth and noticed her, one who was her youthful attendant; and straightway she told Chalciope, who sat in the midst of her sons devising how to win over her sister. And when Chalciope heard the strange tale from the handmaid, not even so did she disregard it. And she rushed in dismay from her chamber right on to the chamber where the maiden lay in her anguish, having torn her cheeks on each side; and when Chalciope saw her eyes all dimmed with tears, she thus addressed her: "Ah me, Medea, why dost thou weep so? What hath befallen thee? What terrible grief has entered thy heart? Has some heaven-sent disease enwrap thy frame, or hast thou heard from our father some deadly threat concerning me and my sons? Would that I did not behold this home of my parents, or the city, but dwelt at the ends of the earth, where not even the name of Colchians is known!"

[681] Thus she spake, and her sister's cheeks flushed; and though she was eager to reply, long did maiden shame restrain her. At one moment the word rose on the end of her tongue, at another it fluttered back deep within her breast. And often through her lovely lips it strove for utterance; but no sound came forth; till at last she spoke with guileful words; for the bold Loves were pressing her hard: "Chalciope, my heart is all trembling for thy sons, lest my father forthwith destroy them together with the strangers. Slumbering just now in a short-lived sleep such a ghastly dream did I see — may some god forbid its fulfilment and never mayst thou win for thyself bitter care on thy sons' account."

[693] She spake, making trial of her sister to see if she first would entreat

help for her sons. And utterly unbearable grief surged over Chalciope's soul for fear at what she heard; and then she replied: "Yea, I myself too have come to thee in eager furtherance of this purpose, if thou wouldst haply devise with me and prepare some help. But swear by Earth and Heaven that thou wilt keep secret in thy heart what I shall tell thee, and be fellow-worker with me. I implore thee by the blessed gods, by thyself and by thy parents, not to see them destroyed by an evil doom piteously; or else may I die with my dear sons and come back hereafter from Hades an avenging Fury to haunt thee."

[705] Thus she spake, and straightway a torrent of tears gushed forth and low down she clasped her sister's knees with both hands and let her head sink on to her breast. Then they both made piteous lamentation over each other, and through the halls rose the faint sound of women weeping in anguish. Medea, sore troubled, first addressed her sister: "God help thee, what healing can I bring thee for what thou speakest of, horrible curses and Furies? Would that it were firmly in my power to save thy sons! Be witness that mighty oath of the Colchians by which thou urgest me to swear, the great Heaven, and Earth beneath, mother of the gods, that as far as strength lies in me, never shalt thou fail of help, if only thy prayers can be accomplished."

[718] She spake, and Chalciope thus replied: "Couldst thou not then, for the stranger — who himself craves thy aid — devise some trick or some wise thought to win the contest, for the sake of my sons? And from him has come Argus urging me to try to win thy help; I left him in the palace meantime while I came hither."

[724] Thus she spake, and Medea's heart bounded with joy within her, and at once her fair cheeks flushed, and a mist swam before her melting eyes, and she spake as follows: "Chalciope, as is dear and delightful to thee and thy sons, even so will I do. Never may the dawn appear again to my eyes, never mayst thou see me living any longer, if I should take thought for anything before thy life or thy sons' lives, for they are my brothers, my dear kinsmen and youthful companions. So do I declare myself to be thy sister, and thy daughter too, for thou didst lift me to thy breast when an infant equally with them, as I ever heard from my mother in past days. But go, bury my kindness in silence, so that I may carry out my promise unknown to my parents; and at dawn I will bring to Hecate's temple charms to cast a spell upon the bulls."

[740] Thus Chalciope went back from the chamber, and made known to her sons the help given by her sister. And again did shame and hateful fear seize Medea thus left alone, that she should devise such deeds for a man in her father's despite.

[744] Then did night draw darkness over the earth; and on the sea sailors from their ships looked towards the Bear and the stars of Orion; and now the wayfarer and the warder longed for sleep, and the pall of slumber wrapped round the mother whose children were dead; nor was there any more the barking of dogs through the city, nor sound of men's voices; but silence held the blackening gloom. But not indeed upon Medea came sweet sleep. For in

her love for Aeson's son many cares kept her wakeful, and she dreaded the mighty strength of the bulls, beneath whose fury he was like to perish by an unseemly fate in the field of Ares. And fast did her heart throb within her breast, as a sunbeam quivers upon the walls of a house when flung up from water, which is just poured forth in a caldron or a pail may be; and hither and thither on the swift eddy does it dart and dance along; even so the maiden's heart quivered in her breast. And the tear of pity flowed from her eyes, and ever within anguish tortured her, a smouldering fire through her frame, and about her fine nerves and deep down beneath the nape of the neck where the pain enters keenest, whenever the unwearied Loves direct against the heart their shafts of agony. And she thought now that she would give him the charms to cast a spell on the bulls, now that she would not, and that she herself would perish; and again that she would not perish and would not give the charms, but just as she was would endure her fate in silence.

[771] Then sitting down she wavered in mind and said: "Poor wretch, must I toss hither and thither in woe? On every side my heart is in despair; nor is there any help for my pain; but it burneth ever thus. Would that I had been slain by the swift shafts of Artemis before I had set eyes on him, before Chalciope's sons reached the Achaean land. Some god or some Fury brought them hither for our grief, a cause of many tears. Let him perish in the contest if it be his lot to die in the field. For how could I prepare the charms without my parents' knowledge? What story call I tell them? What trick, what cunning device for aid can I find? If I see him alone, apart from his comrades, shall I greet him? Ill-starred that I am! I cannot hope that I should rest from my sorrows even though he perished; then will evil come to me when he is bereft of life. Perish all shame, perish all glow; may he, saved by my effort, go scatheless wherever his heart desires. But as for me, on the day when he bides the contest in triumph, may I die either straining my neck in the noose from the roof-tree or tasting drugs destructive of life. But even so, when I am dead, they will fling out taunts against me; and every city far away will ring with my doom, and the Colchian women, tossing my name on their lips hither and thither, will revile me with unseemly mocking — the maid who cared so much for a stranger that she died, the maid who disgraced her home and her parents, yielding to a mad passion. And what disgrace will not be mine? Alas for my infatuation! Far better would it be for me to forsake life this very night in my chamber by some mysterious fate, escaping all slanderous reproach, before I complete such nameless dishonour."

[802] She spake, and brought a casket wherein lay many drugs, some for healing, others for killing, and placing it upon her knees she wept. And she drenched her bosom with ceaseless tears, which flowed in torrents as she sat, bitterly bewailing her own fate. And she longed to choose a murderous drug to taste it, and now she was loosening the bands of the casket eager to take it forth, unhappy maid! But suddenly a deadly fear of hateful Hades came upon her heart. And long she held back in speechless horror, and all around her

thronged visions of the pleasing cares of life. She thought of all the delightful things that are among the living, she thought of her joyous playmates, as a maiden will; and the sun grew sweeter than ever to behold, seeing that in truth her soul yearned for all. And she put the casket again from off her knees, all changed by the prompting of Hera, and no more did she waver in purpose; but longed for the rising dawn to appear quickly, that she might give him the charms to work the spell as she had promised, and meet him face to face. And often did she loosen the bolts of her door, to watch for the faint gleam: and welcome to her did the dayspring shed its light, and folk began to stir throughout the city.

[825] Then Argus bade his brothers remain there to learn the maiden's mind and plans, but himself turned back and went to the ship.

[828] Now soon as ever the maiden saw the light of dawn, with her hands she gathered up her golden tresses which were floating round her shoulders in careless disarray, and bathed her tear-stained cheeks, and made her skin shine with ointment sweet as nectar; and she donned a beautiful robe, fitted with well-bent clasps, and above on her head, divinely fair, she threw a veil gleaming like silver. And there, moving to and fro in the palace, she trod the ground forgetful of the heaven-sent woes thronging round her and of others that were destined to follow. And she called to her maids. Twelve they were, who lay during the night in the vestibule of her fragrant chamber, young as herself, not yet sharing the bridal couch, and she bade them hastily yoke the mules to the chariot to bear her to the beauteous shrine of Hecate. Thereupon the handmaids were making ready the chariot; and Medea meanwhile took from the hollow casket a charm which men say is called the charm of Prometheus. If a man should anoint his body therewithal, having first appeased the Maiden, the only-begotten, with sacrifice by night, surely that man could not be wounded by the stroke of bronze nor would he flinch from blazing fire; but for that day he would prove superior both in prowess and in might. It shot up first- born when the ravening eagle on the rugged flanks of Caucasus let drip to the earth the blood-like ichor of tortured Prometheus. And its flower appeared a cubit above ground in colour like the Corycian crocus, rising on twin stalks; but in the earth the root was like newly-cut flesh. The dark juice of it, like the sap of a mountain-oak, she had gathered in a Caspian shell to make the charm withal, when she had first bathed in seven ever-flowing streams, and had called seven times on Brimo, nurse of youth, night-wandering Brimo, of the underworld, queen among the dead, — in the gloom of night, clad in dusky garments. And beneath, the dark earth shook and bellowed when the Titanian root was cut; and the son of Iapetus himself groaned, his soul distraught with pain. And she brought the charm forth and placed it in the fragrant band which engirdled her, just beneath her bosom, divinely fair. And going forth she mounted the swift chariot, and with her went two handmaidens on each side. And she herself took the reins and in her right hand the well-fashioned whip, and drove through the city; and the rest,

the handmaids, laid their hands on the chariot behind and ran along the broad highway; and they kilted up their light robes above their white knees. And even as by the mild waters of Parthenius, or after bathing in the river Amnisus, Leto's daughter stands upon her golden chariot and courses over the hills with her swift-footed roes, to greet from afar some richly-steaming hecatomb; and with her come the nymphs in attendance, gathering, some at the spring of Amnisus itself, others by the glens and many-fountained peaks; and round her whine and fawn the beasts cowering as she moves along: thus they sped through the city; and on both sides the people gave way, shunning the eyes of the royal maiden.

[888] But when she had left the city's well paved streets, and was approaching the shrine as she drove over the plains, then she alighted eagerly from the smooth-running chariot and spake as follows among her maidens: "Friends, verily have I sinned greatly and took no heed not to go among the stranger-folk I who roam over our land. The whole city is smitten with dismay; wherefore no one of the women who formerly gathered here day by day has now come hither. But since we have come and no one else draws near, come, let us satisfy our souls without stint with soothing song, and when we have plucked the fair flowers amid the tender grass, that very hour will we return. And with many a gift shall ye reach home this very day, if ye will gladden me with this desire of mine. For Argus pleads with me, also Chalciope herself; but this that ye hear from me keep silently in your hearts, lest the tale reach my father's ears. As for yon stranger who took on him the task with the oxen, they bid me receive his gifts and rescue him from the deadly contest. And I approved their counsel, and I have summoned him to come to my presence apart from his comrades, so that we may divide the gifts among ourselves if he bring them in his hands, and in return may give him a baleful charm. But when he comes, do ye stand aloof."

[912] So she spake, and the crafty counsel pleased them all. And straightway Argus drew Aeson's son apart from his comrades as soon as he heard from his brothers that Medea had gone at daybreak to the holy shrine of Hecate, and led him over the plain; and with them went Mopsus, son of Ampycus, skilled to utter oracles from the appearance of birds, and skilled to give good counsel to those who set out on a journey.

[919] Never yet had there been such a man in the days of old, neither of all the heroes of the lineage of Zeus himself, nor of those who sprung from the blood of the other gods, as on that day the bride of Zeus made Jason, both to look upon and to hold converse with. Even his comrades wondered as they gazed upon him, radiant with manifold graces; and the son of Ampycus rejoiced in their journey, already foreboding how all would end.

[927] Now by the path along the plain there stands near the shrine a poplar with its crown of countless leaves, whereon often chattering crows would roost. One of them meantime as she clapped her wings aloft in the branches uttered the counsels of Hera: "What a pitiful seer is this, that has not the wit to

conceive even what children know, how that no maiden will say a word of sweetness or love to a youth when strangers be near. Begone, sorry prophet, witless one; on thee neither Cypris nor the gentle Loves breathe in their kindness.”

[938] She spake chiding, and Mopsus smiled to hear the god-sent voice of the bird, and thus addressed them: “Do thou, son of Aeson, pass on to the temple, where thou wilt find the maiden; and very kind will her greeting be to thee through the prompting of Cypris, who will be thy helpmate in the contest, even as Phineus, Agenor’s son, foretold. But we two, Argus and I, will await thy return, apart in this very spot; do thou all alone be a suppliant and win her over with prudent words.”

[947] He spake wisely, and both at once gave approval. Nor was Medea’s heart turned to other thoughts, for all her singing, and never a song that she essayed pleased her long in her sport. But in confusion she ever faltered, nor did she keep her eyes resting quietly upon the throng of her handmaids; but to the paths far off she strained her gaze, turning her face aside. Oft did her heart sink fainting within her bosom whenever she fancied she heard passing by the sound of a footfall or of the wind. But soon he appeared to her longing eyes, striding along loftily, like Sirius coming from ocean, which rises fair and clear to see, but brings unspeakable mischief to flocks; thus then did Aeson’s son come to her, fair to see, but the sight of him brought love-sick care. Her heart fell from out her bosom, and a dark mist came over her eyes, and a hot blush covered her cheeks. And she had no strength to lift her knees backwards or forwards, but her feet beneath were rooted to the ground; and meantime all her handmaidens had drawn aside. So they two stood face to face without a word, without a sound, like oaks or lofty pines, which stand quietly side by side on the mountains when the wind is still; then again, when stirred by the breath of the wind, they murmur ceaselessly; so they two were destined to tell out all their tale, stirred by the breath of Love.

[973] And Aeson’s son saw that she had fallen into some heaven-sent calamity, and with soothing words thus addressed her: “Why, pray, maiden, dost thou fear me so much, all alone as I am? Never was I one of these idle boasters such as other men are — not even aforetime, when I dwelt in my own country. Wherefore, maiden, be not too much abashed before me, either to enquire whatever thou wilt or to speak thy mind. But since we have met one another with friendly hearts, in a hallowed spot, where it is wrong to sin, speak openly and ask questions, and beguile me not with pleasing words, for at the first thou didst promise thy sister to give me the charms my heart desires. I implore thee by Hecate herself, by thy parents, and by Zeus who holds his guardian hand over strangers and suppliants; I come here to thee both a suppliant and a stranger, bending the knee in my sore need. For without thee and thy sister never shall I prevail in the grievous contest. And to thee will I render thanks hereafter for thy aid, as is right and fitting for men who dwell far off, making glorious thy name and fame; and the rest of the heroes,

returning to Hellas, will spread thy renown and so will the heroes' wives and mothers, who now perhaps are sitting on the shore and making moan for us; their painful affliction thou mightest scatter to the winds. In days past the maiden Ariadne, daughter of Minos, with kindly intent rescued Theseus from grim contests — the maiden whom Pasiphae daughter of Helios bare. But she, when Minos had lulled his wrath to rest, went aboard the ship with him and left her fatherland; and her even the immortal gods loved, and, as a sign in mid-sky, a crown of stars, which men call Ariadne's crown, rolls along all night among the heavenly constellations. So to thee too shall be thanks from the gods, if thou wilt save so mighty an array of chieftains. For surely from thy lovely form thou art like to excel in gentle courtest."

[1008] Thus he spake, honouring her; and she cast her eyes down with a smile divinely sweet; and her soul melted within her, uplifted by his praise, and she gazed upon him face to face; nor did she know what word to utter first, but was eager to pour out everything at once. And forth from her fragrant girdle ungrudgingly she brought out the charm; and he at once received it in his hands with joy. And she would even have drawn out all her soul from her breast and given it to him, exulting in his desire; so wonderfully did love flash forth a sweet flame from the golden head of Aeson's son; and he captivated her gleaming eyes; and her heart within grew warm, melting away as the dew melts away round roses when warmed by the morning's light. And now both were fixing their eyes on the ground abashed, and again were throwing glances at each other, smiling with the light of love beneath their radiant brows.

[1025] And at last and scarcely then did the maiden greet him: "Take heed now, that I may devise help for thee. When at thy coming my father has given thee the deadly teeth from the dragon's jaws for sowing, then watch for the time when the night is parted in twain, then bathe in the stream of the tireless river, and alone, apart from others, clad in dusky raiment, dig a rounded pit; and therein slay a ewe, and sacrifice it whole, heaping high the pyre on the very edge of the pit. And propitiate only-begotten Hecate, daughter of Perses, pouring from a goblet the hive-stored labour of bees. And then, when thou hast heedfully sought the grace of the goddess, retreat from the pyre; and let neither the sound of feet drive thee to turn back, nor the baying of hounds, lest haply thou shouldst maim all the rites and thyself fail to return duly to thy comrades. And at dawn steep this charm in water, strip, and anoint thy body therewith as with oil; and in it there will be boundless prowess and mighty strength, and thou wilt deem thyself a match not for men but for the immortal gods. And besides, let thy spear and shield and sword be sprinkled. Thereupon the spear-heads of the earthborn men shall not pierce thee, nor the flame of the deadly bulls as it rushes forth resistless. But such thou shalt be not for long, but for that one day; still never flinch from the contest. And I will tell thee besides of yet another help. As soon as thou hast yoked the strong oxen, and with thy might and thy prowess hast ploughed all the stubborn fallow, and

now along the furrows the Giants are springing up, when the serpent's teeth are sown on the dusky clods, if thou markest them uprising in throngs from the fallow, cast unseen among them a massy stone; and they over it, like ravening hounds over their food, will slay one another; and do thou thyself hasten to rush to the battle- strife, and the fleece thereupon thou shalt bear far away from Aea; nevertheless, depart wherever thou wilt, or thy pleasure takes thee, when thou hast gone hence."

[1063] Thus she spake, and cast her eyes to her feet in silence, and her cheek, divinely fair, was wet with warm tears as she sorrowed for that he was about to wander far from her side over the wide sea: and once again she addressed him face to face with mournful words, and took his right hand; for now shame had left her eyes: "Remember, if haply thou returnest to thy home, Medea's name; and so will I remember thine, though thou be far away. And of thy kindness tell me this, where is thy home, whither wilt thou sail hence in thy ship over the sea; wilt thou come near wealthy Orchomenus, or near the Aean isle? And tell me of the maiden, whosoever she be that thou hast named, the far-renowned daughter of Pasiphae, who is kinswoman to my father."

[1077] Thus she spake; and over him too, at the tears of the maiden, stole Love the destroyer, and he thus answered her: "All too surely do I deem that never by night and never by day will I forget thee if I escape death and indeed make my way in safety to the Achaean land, and Aeetes set not before us some other contest worse than this. And if it pleases thee to know about my fatherland, I will tell it out; for indeed my own heart bids me do that. There is a land encircled by lofty mountains, rich in sheep and in pasture, where Prometheus, son of Iapetus, begat goodly Deucalion, who first founded cities and reared temples to the immortal gods, and first ruled over men. This land the neighbours who dwell around call Haemonia. And in it stands Iolcus, my city, and in it many others, where they have not so much as heard the name of the Aean isle; yet there is a story that Minyas starting thence, Minyas son of Aeolus, built long ago the city of Orchomenus that borders on the Cadmeians. But why do I tell thee all this vain talk, of our home and of Minos' daughter, far-famed Ariadne, by which glorious name they called that lovely maiden of whom thou askest me? Would that, as Minos then was well inclined to Theseus for her sake, so may thy father be joined to us in friendship!"

[1102] Thus he spake, soothing her with gentle converse. But pangs most bitter stirred her heart and in grief did she address him with vehement words: "In Hellas, I ween, this is fair to pay heed to covenants; but Aeetes is not such a man among men as thou sayest was Pasiphae's husband, Minos; nor can I liken myself to Ariadne; wherefore speak not of guest-love. But only do thou, when thou hast reached Iolcus, remember me, and thee even in my parents' despite, will I remember. And from far off may a rumour come to me or some messenger-bird, when thou forgettest me; or me, even me, may swift blasts catch up and bear over the sea hence to Iolcus, that so I may cast reproaches

in thy face and remind thee that it was by my good will thou didst escape. May I then be seated in thy halls, an unexpected guest!"

[1118] Thus she spake with piteous tears falling down her cheeks, and to her Jason replied: "Let the empty blasts wander at will, lady, and the messenger-bird, for vain is thy talk. But if thou comest to those abodes and to the land of Hellas, honoured and revered shalt thou be by women and men; and they shall worship thee even as a goddess, for that by thy counsel their sons came home again, their brothers and kinsmen and stalwart husbands were saved from calamity. And in our bridal chamber shalt thou prepare our couch; and nothing shall come between our love till the doom of death fold us round."

[1131] Thus he spake; and her soul melted within her to hear his words; nevertheless she shuddered to behold the deeds of destruction to come. Poor wretch! Not long was she destined to refuse a home in Hellas. For thus Hera devised it, that Aeaeon Medea might come to Ioleus for a bane to Pelias, forsaking her native land.

[1137] And now her handmaids, glancing at them from a distance, were grieving in silence; and the time of day required that the maiden should return home to her mother's side. But she thought not yet of departing, for her soul delighted both in his beauty and in his winsome words, but Aeson's son took heed, and spake at last, though late: "It is time to depart, lest the sunlight sink before we know it, and some stranger notice all; but again will we come and meet here."

[1146] So did they two make trial of one another thus far with gentle words; and thereafter parted. Jason hastened to return in joyous mood to his comrades and the ship, she to her handmaids; and they all together came near to meet her, but she marked them not at all as they thronged around. For her soul had soared aloft amid the clouds. And her feet of their own accord mounted the swift chariot, and with one hand she took the reins, and with the other the whip of cunning workmanship, to drive the mules; and they rushed hasting to the city and the palace. And when she was come Chalciope in grief for her sons questioned her; but Medea, distraught by swiftly-changing thoughts, neither heard her words nor was eager to speak in answer to her questions. But she sat upon a low stool at the foot of her couch, bending down, her cheek leaning on her left hand, and her eyes were wet with tears as she pondered what an evil deed she had taken part in by her counsels.

[1163] Now when Aeson's son had joined his comrades again in the spot where he had left them when he departed, he set out to go with them, telling them all the story, to the gathering of the heroes; and together they approached the ship. And when they saw Jason they embraced him and questioned him. And he told to all the counsels of the maiden and showed the dread charm; but Idas alone of his comrades sat apart biting down his wrath; and the rest joyous in heart, at the hour when the darkness of night stayed them, peacefully took thought for themselves. But at daybreak they sent two men to go to Aeetes and ask for the seed, first Telamon himself, dear to Ares, and with him

Aethalides, Hermes' famous son. So they went and made no vain journey; but when they came, lordly Aeetes gave them for the contest the fell teeth of the Aonian dragon which Cadmus found in Ogygian Thebes when he came seeking for Europa and there slew the — warder of the spring of Ares. There he settled by the guidance of the heifer whom Apollo by his prophetic word granted him to lead him on his way. But the teeth the Tritonian goddess tore away from the dragon's jaws and bestowed as a gift upon Aeetes and the slayer. And Agenor's son, Cadmus, sowed them on the Aonian plains and founded an earthborn people of all who were left from the spear when Ares did the reaping; and the teeth Aeetes then readily gave to be borne to the ship, for he deemed not that Jason would bring the contest to an end, even though he should cast the yoke upon the oxen.

[1191] Far away in the west the sun was sailing beneath the dark earth, beyond the furthest hills of the Aethiopians; and Night was laying the yoke upon her steeds; and the heroes were preparing their beds by the hawsers. But Jason, as soon as the stars of Helice, the bright-gleaming bear, had set, and the air had all grown still under heaven, went to a desert spot, like some stealthy thief, with all that was needful; for beforehand in the daytime had he taken thought for everything; and Argus came bringing a ewe and milk from the flock; and them he took from the ship. But when the hero saw a place which was far away from the tread of men, in a clear meadow beneath the open sky, there first of all he bathed his tender body reverently in the sacred river; and round him he placed a dark robe, which Hypsipyle of Lemnos had given him aforetime, a memorial of many a loving embrace. Then he dug a pit in the ground of a cubit's depth and heaped up billets of wood, and over it he cut the throat of the sheep, and duly placed the carcase above; and he kindled the logs placing fire beneath, and poured over them mingled libations, calling on Hecate Brimo to aid him in the contests. And when he had called on her he drew back; and she heard him, the dread goddess, from the uttermost depths and came to the sacrifice of Aeson's son; and round her horrible serpents twined themselves among the oak boughs; and there was a gleam of countless torches; and sharply howled around her the hounds of hell. All the meadows trembled at her step; and the nymphs that haunt the marsh and the river shrieked, all who dance round that mead of Amarantian Phasis. And fear seized Aeson's son, but not even so did he turn round as his feet bore him forth, till he came back to his comrades; and now early dawn arose and shed her light above snowy Caucasus.

[1225] Then Aeetes arrayed his breast in the stiff corslet which Ares gave him when he had slain Phlegraean Mimas with his own hands; and upon his head he placed a golden helmet with four plumes, gleaming like the sun's round light when he first rises from Ocean. And he wielded his shield of many hides, and his spear, terrible, resistless; none of the heroes could have withstood its shock now that they had left behind Heracles far away, who alone could have met it in battle. For the king his well-fashioned chariot of

swift steeds was held near at hand by Phaethon, for him to mount; and he mounted, and held the reins in his hands. Then from the city he drove along the broad highway, that he might be present at the contest; and with him a countless multitude rushed forth. And as Poseidon rides, mounted in his chariot, to the Isthmian contest or to Taenarus, or to Lerna's water, or through the grove of Hyantian Onchestus, and thereafter passes even to Calauria with his steeds, and the Haemonian rock, or well-wooded Geraestus; even so was Aetes, lord of the Colchians, to behold.

[1246] Meanwhile, prompted by Medea, Jason steeped the charm in water and sprinkled with it his shield and sturdy spear, and sword; and his comrades round him made proof of his weapons with might and main, but could not bend that spear even a little, but it remained firm in their stalwart hands unbroken as before. But in furious rage with them Idas, Aphareus' son, with his great sword hewed at the spear near the butt, and the edge leapt back repelled by the shock, like a hammer from the anvil; and the heroes shouted with joy for their hope in the contest. And then he sprinkled his body, and terrible prowess entered into him, unspeakable, dauntless; and his hands on both sides thrilled vigorously as they swelled with strength. And as when a warlike steed eager for the fight neighs and beats the ground with his hoof, while rejoicing he lifts his neck on high with ears erect; in such wise did Aeson's son rejoice in the strength of his limbs. And often hither and thither did he leap high in air tossing in his hands his shield of bronze and ashen spear. Thou wouldst say that wintry lightning flashing from the gloomy sky kept on darting forth from the clouds what time they bring with them their blackest rainstorm. Not long after that were the heroes to hold back from the contests; but sitting in rows on their benches they sped swiftly on to the plain of Ares. And it lay in front of them on the opposite side of the city, as far off as is the turning-post that a chariot must reach from the starting-point, when the kinsmen of a dead king appoint funeral games for footmen and horsemen. And they found Aetes and the tribes of the Colchians; these were stationed on the Caucasian heights, but the king by the winding brink of the river.

[1278] Now Aeson's son, as soon as his comrades had made the hawsers fast, leapt from the ship, and with spear and shield came forth to the contest; and at the same time he took the gleaming helmet of bronze filled with sharp teeth, and his sword girt round his shoulders, his body stripped, in somewise resembling Ares and in somewise Apollo of the golden sword. And gazing over the field he saw the bulls' yoke of bronze and near it the plough, all of one piece, of stubborn adamant. Then he came near, and fixed his sturdy spear upright on its butt, and taking his helmet, off leant it against the spear. And he went forward with shield alone to examine the countless tracks of the bulls, and they from some unseen lair beneath the earth, where was their strong stading, wrapt in murky smoke, both rushed out together, breathing forth flaming fire. And sore afraid were the heroes at the sight. But Jason, setting wide his feet, withstood their onset, as in the sea a rocky reef withstands the

waves tossed by the countless blasts. Then in front of him he held his shield; and both the bulls with loud bellowing attacked him with their mighty horns; nor did they stir him a jot by their onset. And as when through the holes of the furnace the armourers' bellows anon gleam brightly, kindling the ravening flame, and anon cease from blowing, and a terrible roar rises from the fire when it darts up from below; so the bulls roared, breathing forth swift flame from their mouths, while the consuming heat played round him, smiting like lightning; but the maiden's charms protected him. Then grasping the tip of the horn of the right-hand bull, he dragged it mightily with all his strength to bring it near the yoke of bronze, and forced it down on to its knees, suddenly striking with his foot the foot of bronze. So also he threw the other bull on to its knees as it rushed upon him, and smote it down with one blow. And throwing to the ground his broad shield, he held them both down where they had fallen on their fore-knees, as he strode from side to side, now here, now there, and rushed swiftly through the flame. But Aeetes marvelled at the hero's might. And meantime the sons of Tyndareus for long since had it been thus ordained for them — near at hand gave him the yoke from the ground to cast round them. Then tightly did he bind their necks; and lifting the pole of bronze between them, he fastened it to the yoke by its golden tip. So the twin heroes started back from the fire to the ship. But Jason took up again his shield and cast it on his back behind him, and grasped the strong helmet filled with sharp teeth, and his resistless spear, wherewith, like some ploughman with a Pelasgian goad, he pricked the bulls beneath, striking their flanks; and very firmly did he guide the well fitted plough handle, fashioned of adamant.

[1326] The bulls meantime raged exceedingly, breathing forth furious flame of fire; and their breath rose up like the roar of blustering winds, in fear of which above all seafaring men furl their large sail. But not long after that they moved on at the bidding of the spear; and behind them the rugged fallow was broken up, cloven by the might of the bulls and the sturdy ploughman. Then terribly groaned the clods withal along the furrows of the plough as they were rent, each a man's burden; and Jason followed, pressing down the cornfield with firm foot; and far from him he ever sowed the teeth along the clods as each was ploughed, turning his head back for fear lest the deadly crop of earthborn men should rise against him first; and the bulls toiled onwards treading with their hoofs of bronze.

[1340] But when the third part of the day was still left as it wanes from dawn, and wearied labourers call for the sweet hour of unyoking to come to them straightway, then the fallow was ploughed by the tireless ploughman, four plough-gates though it was; and he loosed the plough from the oxen. Then he scared in flight towards the plain; but he went back again to the ship, while he still saw the furrows free of the earthborn men. And all round his comrades heartened him with their shouts. And in the helmet he drew from the river's stream and quenched his thirst with the water. Then he bent his knees till they grew supple, and filled his mighty heart with courage, raging like a boar,

when it sharpens its teeth against the hunters, while from its wrathful mouth plenteous foam drips to the ground. By now the earthborn men were springing up over all the field; and the plot of Ares, the death-dealer, bristled with sturdy shields and double-pointed spears and shining helmets; and the gleam reached Olympus from beneath, flashing through the air. And as when abundant snow has fallen on the earth and the storm blasts have dispersed the wintry clouds under the murky night, and all the hosts of the stars appear shining through the gloom; so did those warriors shine springing up above the earth. But Jason bethought him of the counsels of Medea full of craft, and seized from the plain a huge round boulder, a terrible quoit of Ares Enyalios; four stalwart youths could not have raised it from the ground even a little. Taking it in his hands he threw it with a rush far away into their midst; and himself crouched unseen behind his shield, with full confidence. And the Colchians gave a loud cry, like the roar of the sea when it beats upon sharp crags; and speechless amazement seized Aeetes at the rush of the sturdy quoit. And the Earthborn, like fleet-footed hounds, leaped upon one another and slew with loud yells; and on earth their mother they fell beneath their own spears, like pines or oaks, which storms of wind beat down. And even as a fiery star leaps from heaven, trailing a furrow of light, a portent to men, whoever see it darting with a gleam through the dusky sky; in such wise did Aeson's son rush upon the earthborn men, and he drew from the sheath his bare sword, and smote here and there, mowing them down, many on the belly and side, half risen to the air — and some that had risen as far as the shoulders — and some just standing upright, and others even now rushing to battle. And as when a fight is stirred up concerning boundaries, and a husbandman, in fear lest they should ravage his fields, seizes in his hand a curved sickle, newly sharpened, and hastily cuts the unripe crop, and waits not for it to be parched in due season by the beams of the sun; so at that time did Jason cut down the crop of the Earthborn; and the furrows were filled with blood, as the channels of a spring with water. And they fell, some on their faces biting the rough clod of earth with their teeth, some on their backs, and others on their hands and sides, like to sea-monsters to behold. And many, smitten before raising their feet from the earth, bowed down as far to the ground as they had risen to the air, and rested there with the damp of death on their brows. Even so, I ween, when Zeus has sent a measureless rain, new planted orchard-shoots droop to the ground, cut off by the root the toil of gardening men; but heaviness of heart and deadly anguish come to the owner of the farm, who planted them; so at that time did bitter grief come upon the heart of King Aeetes. And he went back to the city among the Colchians, pondering how he might most quickly oppose the heroes. And the day died, and Jason's contest was ended.

BOOK IV.

[1] Now do thou thyself, goddess Muse, daughter of Zeus, tell of the labour and wiles of the Colchian maiden. Surely my soul within me wavers with speechless amazement as I ponder whether I should call it the lovesick grief of mad passion or a panic flight, through which she left the Colchian folk.

[6] Aeetes all night long with the bravest captains of his people was devising in his halls sheer treachery against the heroes, with fierce wrath in his heart at the issue of the hateful contest; nor did he deem at all that these things were being accomplished without the knowledge of his daughters.

[11] But into Medea's heart Hera cast most grievous fear; and she trembled like a nimble fawn whom the baying of hounds hath terrified amid the thicket of a deep copse. For at once she truly forboded that the aid she had given was not hidden from her father, and that quickly she would fill up the cup of woe. And she dreaded the guilty knowledge of her handmaids; her eyes were filled with fire and her ears rung with a terrible cry. Often did she clutch at her throat, and often did she drag out her hair by the roots and groan in wretched despair. There on that very day the maiden would have tasted the drugs and perished and so have made void the purposes of Hera, had not the goddess driven her, all bewildered, to flee with the sons of Phrixus; and her fluttering soul within her was comforted; and then she poured from her bosom all the drugs back again into the casket. Then she kissed her bed, and the folding-doors on both sides, and stroked the walls, and tearing away in her hands a long tress of hair, she left it in the chamber for her mother, a memorial of her maidenhood, and thus lamented with passionate voice: "I go, leaving this long tress here in my stead, O mother mine; take this farewell from me as I go far hence; farewell Chalciope, and all my home. Would that the sea, stranger, had dashed thee to pieces, ere thou camest to the Colchian land!"

[34] Thus she spake, and from her eyes shed copious tears. And as a bondmaid steals away from a wealthy house, whom fate has lately severed from her native land, nor yet has she made trial of grievous toil, but still unschooled to misery and shrinking in terror from slavish tasks, goes about beneath the cruel hands of a mistress; even so the lovely maiden rushed forth from her home. But to her the bolts of the doors gave way self-moved, leaping backwards at the swift strains of her magic song. And with bare feet she sped along the narrow paths, with her left hand holding her robe over her brow to veil her face and fair cheeks, and with her right lifting up the hem of her tunic. Quickly along the dark track, outside the towers of the spacious city, did she come in fear; nor did any of the warders note her, but she sped on unseen by them. Thence she was minded to go to the temple; for well she knew the way, having often aforetime wandered there in quest of corpses and noxious roots of the earth, as a sorceress is wont to do; and her soul fluttered with quivering fear.

[55] And the Titanian goddess, the moon, rising from a far land, beheld her as she fled distraught, and fiercely exulted over her, and thus spake to her own heart: "Not I alone then stray to the Latinian cave, nor do I alone burn with love for fair Endymion; oft times with thoughts of love have I been driven away by thy crafty spells, in order that in the darkness of night thou mightest work thy sorcery at ease, even the deeds dear to thee. And now thou thyself too hast part in a like mad passion; and some god of affection has given thee Jason to be thy grievous woe. Well, go on, and steel thy heart, wise though thou be, to take up thy burden of pain, fraught with many sighs."

[66] Thus spake the goddess; but swiftly the maiden's feet bore her, hasting on. And gladly did she gain the high-bank of the river and beheld on the opposite side the gleam of fire, which all night long the heroes were kindling in joy at the contest's issue. Then through the gloom, with clear-pealing voice from across the stream, she called on Phrontis, the youngest of Phrixus' sons, and he with his brothers and Aeson's son recognised the maiden's voice; and in silence his comrades wondered when they knew that it was so in truth. Thrice she called, and thrice at the bidding of the company Phrontis called out in reply; and meantime the heroes were rowing with swift-moving oars in search of her. Not yet were they casting the ship's hawsers upon the opposite bank, when Jason with light feet leapt to land from the deck above, and after him Phrontis and Argus, sons of Phrixus, leapt to the ground; and she, clasping their knees with both hands, thus addressed them: "Save me, the hapless one, my friends, from Aeetes, and yourselves too, for all is brought to light, nor doth any remedy come. But let us flee upon the ship, before the king mounts his swift chariot. And I will lull to sleep the guardian serpent and give you the fleece of gold; but do thou, stranger, amid thy comrades make the gods witness of the vows thou hast taken on thyself for my sake; and now that I have fled far from my country, make me not a mark for blame and dishonour for want of kinsmen."

[92] She spake in anguish; but greatly did the heart of Aeson's son rejoice, and at once, as she fell at his knees, he raised her gently and embraced her, and spake words of comfort: "Lady, let Zeus of Olympus himself be witness to my oath, and Hera, queen of marriage, bride of Zeus, that I will set thee in my halls my own wedded wife, when we have reached the land of Hellas on our return."

[99] Thus he spake, and straightway clasped her right hand in his; and she bade them row the swift ship to the sacred grove near at hand, in order that, while it was still night, they might seize and carry off the fleece against the will of Aeetes. Word and deed were one to the eager crew. For they took her on board, and straightway thrust the ship from shore; and loud was the din as the chieftains strained at their oars, but she, starting back, held out her hands in despair towards the shore. But Jason spoke cheering words and restrained her grief.

[109] Now at the hour when men have cast sleep from their eyes~huntsmen,

who, trusting to their bounds, never slumber away the end of night, but avoid the light of dawn lest, smiting with its white beams, it efface the track and scent of the quarry — then did Aeson's son and the maiden step forth from the ship over a grassy spot, the "Ram's couch" as men call it, where it first bent its wearied knees in rest, bearing on its back the Minyan son of Athamas. And close by, all smirched with soot, was the base of the altar, which the Aeolid Phrixus once set up to Zeus, the alder of fugitives, when he sacrificed the golden wonder at the bidding of Hermes who graciously met him on the way. There by the counsels of Argus the chieftains put them ashore.

[123] And they two by the pathway came to the sacred grove, seeking the huge oak tree on which was hung the fleece, like to a cloud that blushes red with the fiery beams of the rising sun. But right in front the serpent with his keen sleepless eyes saw them coming, and stretched out his long neck and hissed in awful wise; and all round the long banks of the river echoed and the boundless grove. Those heard it who dwelt in the Colchian land very far from Titanian Aea, near the outfall of Lycus, the river which parts from loud-roaring Araxes and blends his sacred stream with Phasis, and they twain flow on together in one and pour their waters into the Caucasian Sea. And through fear young mothers awoke, and round their new-born babes, who were sleeping in their arms, threw their hands in agony, for the small limbs started at that hiss. And as when above a pile of smouldering wood countless eddies of smoke roll up mingled with soot, and one ever springs up quickly after another, rising aloft from beneath in wavering wreaths; so at that time did that monster roll his countless coils covered with hard dry scales. And as he writhed, the maiden came before his eyes, with sweet voice calling to her aid sleep, highest of gods, to charm the monster; and she cried to the queen of the underworld, the night-wanderer, to be propitious to her enterprise. And Aeson's son followed in fear, but the serpent, already charmed by her song, was relaxing the long ridge of his giant spine, and lengthening out his myriad coils, like a dark wave, dumb and noiseless, rolling over a sluggish sea; but still he raised aloft his grisly head, eager to enclose them both in his murderous jaws. But she with a newly cut spray of juniper, dipping and drawing untempered charms from her mystic brew, sprinkled his eyes, while she chanted her song; and all around the potent scent of the charm cast sleep; and on the very spot he let his jaw sink down; and far behind through the wood with its many trees were those countless coils stretched out.

[162] Hereupon Jason snatched the golden fleece from the oak, at the maiden bidding; and she, standing firm, smeared with the charm the monster's head, till Jason himself bade her turn back towards their ship, and she left the grove of Ares, dusky with shade. And as a maiden catches on her finely wrought robe the gleam of the moon at the full, as it rises above her high-roofed chamber; and her heart rejoices as she beholds the fair ray; so at that time did Jason uplift the mighty fleece in his hands; and from the shimmering of the flocks of wool there settled on his fair cheeks and brow a red flush like a

flame. And great as is the hide of a yearling ox or stag, which huntsmen call a brocket, so great in extent was the fleece all golden above. Heavy it was, thickly clustered with flocks; and as he moved along, even beneath his feet the sheen rose up from the earth. And he strode on now with the fleece covering his left shoulder from the height of his neck to his feet, and now again he gathered it up in his hands; for he feared exceedingly, lest some god or man should meet him and deprive him thereof.

[183] Dawn was spreading over the earth when they reached the throng of heroes; and the youths marvelled to behold the mighty fleece, which gleamed like the lightning of Zeus. And each one started up eager to touch it and clasp it in his hands. But the son of Aeson restrained them all, and threw over it a mantle newly-woven; and he led the maiden to the stern and seated her there, and spake to them all as follows: "No longer now, my friends, forbear to return to your fatherland. For now the task for which we dared this grievous voyage, toiling with bitter sorrow of heart, has been lightly fulfilled by the maiden's counsels. Her — for such is her will — I will bring home to be my wedded wife; do ye preserve her, the glorious saviour of all Achaea and of yourselves. For of a surety, I ween, will Aeetes come with his host to bar our passage from the river into the sea. But do some of you toil at the oars in turn, sitting man by man; and half of you raise your shields of oxhide, a ready defence against the darts of the enemy, and guard our return. And now in our hands we hold the fate of our children and dear country and of our aged parents; and on our venture all Hellas depends, to reap either the shame of failure or great renown."

[206] Thus he spake, and donned his armour of war; and they cried aloud, wondrously eager. And he drew his sword from the sheath and cut the hawsers at the stern. And near the maiden he took his stand ready armed by the steersman Aeneas, and with their rowing the ship sped on as they strained desperately to drive her clear of the river.

[212] By this time Medea's love and deeds had become known to haughty Aeetes and to all the Colchians. And they thronged to the assembly in arms; and countless as the waves of the stormy sea when they rise crested by the wind, or as the leaves that fall to the ground from the wood with its myriad branches in the month when the leaves fall — who could reckon their tale? — so they in countless number poured along the banks of the river shouting in frenzy; and in his shapely chariot Aeetes shone forth above all with his steeds, the gift of Helios, swift as the blasts of the wind. In his left hand he raised his curved shield, and in his right a huge pine-torch, and near him in front stood up his mighty spear. And Apsyrtus held in his hands the reins of the steeds. But already the ship was cleaving the sea before her, urged on by stalwart oarsmen, and the stream of the mighty river rushing down. But the king in grievous anguish lifted his hands and called on Helios and Zeus to bear witness to their evil deeds; and terrible threats he uttered against all his people, that unless they should with their own hands seize the maiden, either

on the land or still finding the ship on the swell of the open sea, and bring her back, that so he might satisfy his eager soul with vengeance for all those deeds, at the cost of their own lives they should learn and abide all his rage and revenge.

[236] Thus spake Aeetes; and on that same day the Colchians launched their ships and cast the tackle on board, and on that same day sailed forth on the sea; thou wouldst not say so mighty a host was a fleet of ships, but that a countless flight of birds, swarm on swarm, was clamouring over the sea.

[241] Swiftly the wind blew, as the goddess Hera planned, so that most quickly Aeaeon Medea might reach the Pelasgian land, a bane to the house of Pelias, and on the third morn they bound the ship's stern cables to the shores of the Paphlagonians, at the mouth of the river Halys. For Medea bade them land and propitiate Hecate with sacrifice. Now all that the maiden prepared for offering the sacrifice may no man know, and may my soul not urge me to sing thereof. Awe restrains my lips, yet from that time the altar which the heroes raised on the beach to the goddess remains till now, a sight to men of a later day.

[253] And straightway Aeson's son and the rest of the heroes bethought them of Phineus, how that he had said that their course from Aea should be different, but to all alike his meaning was dim. Then Argus spake, and they eagerly hearkened: "We go to Orchomenus, whither that unerring seer, whom ye met aforetime, foretold your voyage. For there is another course, signified by those priests of the immortal gods, who have sprung from Tritonian Thebes. As yet all the stars that wheel in the heaven were not, nor yet, though one should inquire, could aught be heard of the sacred race of the Danaï. Apidanæan Arcadians alone existed, Arcadians who lived even before the moon, it is said, eating acorns on the hills; nor at that time was the Pelasgian land ruled by the glorious sons of Deucalion, in the days when Egypt, mother of men of an older time, was called the fertile Morning-land, and the river fair-flowing Triton, by which all the Morning-land is watered; and never does the rain from Zeus moisten the earth; but from the flooding of the river abundant crops spring up. From this land, it is said, a king made his way all round through the whole of Europe and Asia, trusting in the might and strength and courage of his people; and countless cities did he find wherever he came, whereof some are still inhabited and some not; many an age hath passed since then. But Aea abides unshaken even now and the sons of those men whom that king settled to dwell in Aea. They preserve the writings of their fathers, graven on pillars, whereon are marked all the ways and the limits of sea and land as ye journey on all sides round. There is a river, the uttermost horn of Ocean, broad and exceeding deep, that a merchant ship may traverse; they call it Ister and have marked it far off; and for a while it cleaves the boundless tilth alone in one stream; for beyond the blasts of the north wind, far off in the Rhipean mountains, its springs burst forth with a roar. But when it enters the boundaries of the Thracians and Scythians, here, dividing its

stream into two, it sends its waters partly into the Ionian sea, and partly to the south into a deep gulf that bends upwards from the Trinaerian sea, that sea which lies along your land, if indeed Achelous flows forth from your land.”

[294] Thus he spake, and to them the goddess granted a happy portent, and all at the sight shouted approval, that this was their appointed path. For before them appeared a trail of heavenly light, a sign where they might pass. And gladly they left behind there the son of Lyeus and with canvas outspread sailed over the sea, with their eyes on the Paphlagonian mountains. But they did not round Carambis, for the winds and the gleam of the heavenly fire stayed with them till they reached Ister’s mighty stream.

[303] Now some of the Colchians, in a vain search, passed out from Pontus through the Cyanean rocks; but the rest went to the river, and them Apsyrtus led, and, turning aside, he entered the mouth called Fair. Wherefore he outstripped the heroes by crossing a neck of land into the furthest gulf of the Ionian sea. For a certain island is enclosed by Ister, by name Peuee, three-cornered, its base stretching along the coast, and with a sharp angle towards the river; and round it the outfall is cleft in two. One mouth they call the mouth of Narex, and the other, at the lower end, the Fair mouth. And through this Apsyrtus and his Colchians rushed with all speed; but the heroes went upwards far away towards the highest part of the island. And in the meadows the country shepherds left their countless flocks for dread of the ships, for they deemed that they were beasts coming forth from the monster-teeming sea. For never yet before had they seen seafaring ships, neither the Scythians mingled with the Thracians, nor the Sigynni, nor yet the Graucenii, nor the Sindi that now inhabit the vast desert plain of Laurium. But when they had passed near the mount Angurum, and the cliff of Cauliacus, far from the mount Angurum, round which Ister, dividing his stream, falls into the sea on this side and on that, and the Laurian plain, then indeed the Colchians went forth into the Cronian sea and cut off all the ways, to prevent their foes’ escape. And the heroes came down the river behind and reached the two Brygean isles of Artemis near at hand. Now in one of them was a sacred temple; and on the other they landed, avoiding the host of Apsyrtus; for the Colchians had left these islands out of many within the river, just as they were, through reverence for the daughter of Zeus; but the rest, thronged by the Colchians, barred the ways to the sea. And so on other islands too, close by, Apsyrtus left his host as far as the river Salangon and the Nestian land.

[338] There the Minyae would at that time have yielded in grim fight, a few to many; but ere then they made a covenant, shunning a dire quarrel; as to the golden fleece, that since Aeetes himself had so promised them if they should fulfill the contests, they should keep it as justly won, whether they carried it off by craft or even openly in the king’s despite; but as to Medea — for that was the cause of strife — that they should give her in ward to Leto’s daughter apart from the throng, until some one of the kings that dispense justice should utter his doom, whether she must return to her father’s home or follow the

chieftains to the land of Hellas.

[350] Now when the maiden had mused upon all this, sharp anguish shook her heart unceasingly; and quickly she called forth Jason alone apart from his comrades, and led him aside until they were far away, and before his face uttered her speech all broken with sobs: "What is this purpose that ye are now devising about me, O son of Aeson? Has thy triumph utterly cast forgetfulness upon thee, and reekest thou nothing of all that thou spakest when held fast by necessity? Whither are fled the oaths by Zeus the suppliants' god, whither are fled thy honied promises? For which in no seemly wise, with shameless will, I have left my country, the glories of my home and even my parents — things that were dearest to me; and far away all alone I am borne over the sea with the plaintive kingfishers because of thy trouble, in order that I might save thy life in fulfilling the contests with the oxen and the earthborn men. Last of all the fleece — when the matter became known, it was by my folly thou didst win it; and a foul reproach have I poured on womankind. Wherefore I say that as thy child, thy bride and thy sister, I follow thee to the land of Hellas. Be ready to stand by me to the end, abandon me not left forlorn of thee when thou dost visit the kings. But only save me; let justice and right, to which we have both agreed, stand firm; or else do thou at once shear through this neck with the sword, that I may gain the guerdon due to my mad passion. Poor wretch! if the king, to whom you both commit your cruel covenant, doom me to belong to my brother. How shall I come to my father's sight? Will it be with a good name? What revenge, what heavy calamity shall I not endure in agony for the terrible deeds I have done? And wilt thou win the return that thy heart desires? Never may Zeus' bride, the queen of all, in whom thou dost glory, bring that to pass. Mayst thou some time remember me when thou art racked with anguish; may the fleece like a dream vanish into the nether darkness on the wings of the wind! And may my avenging Furies forthwith drive thee from thy country, for all that I have suffered through thy cruelty! These curses will not be allowed to fall unaccomplished to the ground. A mighty oath hast thou transgressed, ruthless one; but not long shalt thou and thy comrades sit at ease casting eyes of mockery upon me, for all your covenants."

[391] Thus she spake, seething with fierce wrath; and she longed to set fire to the ship and to hew it utterly in pieces, and herself to fall into the raging flame. But Jason, half afraid, thus addressed her with gentle words: "Forbear, lady; me too this pleases not. But we seek some respite from battle, for such a cloud of hostile men, like to a fire, surrounds us, on thy account. For all that inhabit this land are eager to aid Apsyrtus, that they may lead thee back home to thy father, like some captured maid. And all of us would perish in hateful destruction, if we closed with them in fight; and bitterer still will be the pain, if we are slain and leave thee to be their prey. But this covenant will weave a web of guile to lead him to ruin. Nor will the people of the land for thy sake oppose us, to favour the Colchians, when their prince is no longer with them,

who is thy champion and thy brother; nor will I shrink from matching myself in fight with the Colchians, if they bar my way homeward.”

[410] Thus he spake soothing her; and she uttered a deadly speech: “Take heed now. For when sorry deeds are done we must needs devise sorry counsel, since at first I was distraught by my error, and by heaven’s will it was I wrought the accomplishment of evil desires. Do thou in the turmoil shield me from the Colchians’ spears; and I will beguile Apsyrtus to come into thy hands — do thou greet him with splendid gifts — if only I could persuade the heralds on their departure to bring him alone to hearken to my words. Thereupon if this deed pleases thee, slay him and raise a conflict with the Colchians, I care not.

[421] So they two agreed and prepared a great web of guile for Apsyrtus, and provided many gifts such as are due to guests, and among them gave a sacred robe of Hypsipyle, of crimson hue. The Graces with their own hands had wrought it for Dionysus in sea-girt Dia, and he gave it to his son Thoas thereafter, and Thoas left it to Hypsipyle, and she gave that fair-wrought guest-gift with many another marvel to Aeson’s son to wear. Never couldst thou satisfy thy sweet desire by touching it or gazing on it. And from it a divine fragrance breathed from the time when the king of Nysa himself lay to rest thereon, flushed with wine and nectar as he clasped the beauteous breast of the maiden-daughter of Minos, whom once Theseus forsook in the island of Dia, when she had followed him from Cnossus. And when she had worked upon the heralds to induce her brother to come, as soon as she reached the temple of the goddess, according to the agreement, and the darkness of night surrounded them, that so she might devise with him a cunning plan for her to take the mighty fleece of gold and return to the home of Aeetes, for, she said, the sons of Phrixus had given her by force to the strangers to carry off; with such beguiling words she scattered to the air and the breezes her witching charms, which even from afar would have drawn down the savage beast from the steep mountain-height.

[445] Ruthless Love, great bane, great curse to mankind, from thee come deadly strifes and lamentations and groans, and countless pains as well have their stormy birth from thee. Arise, thou god, and arm thyself against the sons of our foes in such guise as when thou didst fill Medea’s heart with accursed madness. How then by evil doom did she slay Apsyrtus when he came to meet her? For that must our song tell next.

[452] When the heroes had left the maiden on the island of Artemis, according to the covenant, both sides ran their ships to land separately. And Jason went to the ambush to lie in wait for Apsyrtus and then for his comrades. But he, beguiled by these dire promises, swiftly crossed the swell of the sea in his ship, and in dark night set foot on the sacred island; and faring all alone to meet her he made trial in speech of his sister, as a tender child tries a wintry torrent which not even strong men can pass through, to see if she would devise some guile against the strangers. And so they two agreed

together on everything; and straightway Aeson's son leapt forth from the thick ambush, lifting his bare sword in his hand; and quickly the maiden turned her eyes aside and covered them with her veil that she might not see the blood of her brother when he was smitten. And Jason marked him and struck him down, as a butcher strikes down a mighty strong-horned bull, hard by the temple which the Brygi on the mainland opposite had once built for Artemis. In its vestibule he fell on his knees; and at last the hero breathing out his life caught up in both hands the dark blood as it welled from the wound; and he dyed with red his sister's silvery veil and robe as she shrank away. And with swift side-glance the irresistible pitiless Fury beheld the deadly deed they had done. And the hero, Aeson's son, cut off the extremities of the dead man, and thrice licked up some blood and thrice spat the pollution from his teeth, as it is right for the slayer to do, to atone for a treacherous murder. And the clammy corpse he hid in the ground where even now those bones lie among the Apsyrrians.

[481] Now as soon as the heroes saw the blaze of a torch, which the maiden raised for them as a sign to pursue, they laid their own ship near the Colchian ship, and they slaughtered the Colchian host, as kites slay the tribes of wood-pigeons, or as lions of the wold, when they have leapt amid the steading, drive a great flock of sheep huddled together. Nor did one of them escape death, but the heroes rushed upon the whole crew, destroying them like a flame; and at last Jason met them, and was eager to give aid where none was needed; but already they were taking thought for him too. Thereupon they sat to devise some prudent counsel for their voyage, and the maiden came upon them as they pondered, but Peleus spake his word first: "I now bid you embark while it is still night, and take with your oars the passage opposite to that which the enemy guards, for at dawn when they see their plight I deem that no word urging to further pursuit of us will prevail with them; but as people bereft of their king, they will be scattered in grievous dissension. And easy, when the people are scattered, will this path be for us on our return."

[503] Thus he spake; and the youths assented to the words of Aeacus' son. And quickly they entered the ship, and toiled at their oars unceasingly until they reached the sacred isle of Electra, the highest of them all, near the river Eridanus.

[507] But when the Colchians learnt the death of their prince, verily they were eager to pursue Argo and the Minyans through all the Cronian sea. But Hera restrained them by terrible lightnings from the sky. And at last they loathed their own homes in the Cytaean land, quailing before Aeetes' fierce wrath; so they landed and made abiding homes there, scattered far and wide. Some set foot on those very islands where the heroes had stayed, and they still dwell there, bearing a name derived from Apsyrus; and others built a fenced city by the dark deep Illyrian river, where is the tomb of Harmonia and Cadmus, dwelling among the Encheleans; and others live amid the mountains which are called the Thunderers, from the day when the thunders of Zeus, son

of Cronos, prevented them from crossing over to the island opposite.

[522] Now the heroes, when their return seemed safe for them, fared onward and made their hawsers fast to the land of the Hylleans. For the islands lay thick in the river and made the path dangerous for those who sailed thereby. Nor, as aforetime, did the Hylleans devise their hurt, but of their own accord furthered their passage, winning as guerdon a mighty tripod of Apollo. For tripods twain had Phoebus given to Aeson's son to carry afar in the voyage he had to make, at the time when he went to sacred Pytho to enquire about this very voyage; and it was ordained by fate that in whatever land they should be placed, that land should never be ravaged by the attacks of foemen. Therefore even now this tripod is hidden in that land near the pleasant city of Hyllus, far beneath the earth, that it may ever be unseen by mortals. Yet they found not King Hyllus still alive in the land, whom fair Melite bare to Heracles in the land of the Phaeacians. For he came to the abode of Nausithous and to Macris, the nurse of Dionysus, to cleanse himself from the deadly murder of his children; here he loved and overcame the water nymph Melite, the daughter of the river Aegaeus, and she bare mighty Hyllus. But when he had grown up he desired not to dwell in that island under the rule of Nausithous the king; but he collected a host of native Phaeacians and came to the Cronian sea; for the hero King Nausithous aided his journey, and there he settled, and the Mentores slew him as he was fighting for the oxen of his field.

[522] Now, goddesses, say how it is that beyond this sea, near the land of Ausonia and the Ligystian isles, which are called Stoechades, the mighty tracks of the ship Argo are clearly sung of? What great constraint and need brought the heroes so far? What breezes wafted them?

[527] When Apsyrtus had fallen in mighty overthrow Zeus himself, king of gods, was seized with wrath at what they had done. And he ordained that by the counsels of Aeaean Circe they should cleanse themselves from the terrible stain of blood and suffer countless woes before their return. Yet none of the chieftains knew this; but far onward they sped starting from the Hyllean land, and they left behind all the islands that were beforetime thronged by the Colchians — the Liburnian isles, isle after isle, Issa, Dysceladus, and lovely Pityeia. Next after them they came to Corcyra, where Poseidon settled the daughter of Asopus, fair-haired Corcyra, far from the land of Phlius, whence he had carried her off through love; and sailors beholding it from the sea, all black with its sombre woods, call it Corcyra the Black. And next they passed Melite, rejoicing in the soft-blowing breeze, and steep Cerossus, and Nymphaea at a distance, where lady Calypso, daughter of Atlas, dwelt; and they deemed they saw the misty mountains of Thunder. And then Hera bethought her of the counsels and wrath of Zeus concerning them. And she devised an ending of their voyage and stirred up storm-winds before them, by which they were caught and borne back to the rocky isle of Electra. And straightway on a sudden there called to them in the midst of their course, speaking with a human voice, the beam of the hollow ship, which Athena had

set in the centre of the stem, made of Dodonian oak. And deadly fear seized them as they heard the voice that told of the grievous wrath of Zeus. For it proclaimed that they should not escape the paths of an endless sea nor grievous tempests, unless Circe should purge away the guilt of the ruthless murder of Apsyrtus; and it bade Polydeuces and Castor pray to the immortal gods first to grant a path through the Ausonian sea where they should find Circe, daughter of Perse and Helios.

[592] Thus Argo cried through the darkness; and the sons of Tyndareus uprose, and lifted their hands to the immortals praying for each boon: but dejection held the rest of the Minyan heroes. And far on sped Argo under sail, and entered deep into the stream of Eridanus; where once, smitten on the breast by the blazing bolt, Phaethon half-consumed fell from the chariot of Helios into the opening of that deep lake; and even now it belcheth up heavy steam clouds from the smouldering wound. And no bird spreading its light wings can cross that water; but in mid-course it plunges into the flame, fluttering. And all around the maidens, the daughters of Helios, enclosed in tall poplars, wretchedly wail a piteous plaint; and from their eyes they shed on the ground bright drops of amber. These are dried by the sun upon the sand; but whenever the waters of the dark lake flow over the strand before the blast of the wailing wind, then they roll on in a mass into Eridanus with swelling tide. But the Celts have attached this story to them, that these are the tears of Leto's son, Apollo, that are borne along by the eddies, the countless tears that he shed aforetime when he came to the sacred race of the Hyperboreans and left shining heaven at the chiding of his father, being in wrath concerning his son whom divine Coronis bare in bright Lacereia at the mouth of Amyrus. And such is the story told among these men. But no desire for food or drink seized the heroes nor were their thoughts turned to joy. But they were sorely afflicted all day, heavy and faint at heart, with the noisome stench, hard to endure, which the streams of Eridanus sent forth from Phaethon still burning; and at night they heard the piercing lament of the daughters of Helios, wailing with shrill voice; and, as they lamented, their tears were borne on the water like drops of oil.

[627] Thence they entered the deep stream of Rhodanus which flows into Eridanus; and where they meet there is a roar of mingling waters. Now that river, rising from the ends of the earth, where are the portals and mansions of Night, on one side bursts forth upon the beach of Ocean, at another pours into the Ionian sea, and on the third through seven mouths sends its stream to the Sardinian sea and its limitless bay. And from Rhodanus they entered stormy lakes, which spread throughout the Celtic mainland of wondrous size; and there they would have met with an inglorious calamity; for a certain branch of the river was bearing them towards a gulf of Ocean which in ignorance they were about to enter, and never would they have returned from there in safety. But Hera leaping forth from heaven pealed her cry from the Hercynian rock; and all together were shaken with fear of her cry; for terribly crashed the

mighty firmament. And backward they turned by reason of the goddess, and noted the path by which their return was ordained. And after a long while they came to the beach of the surging sea by the devising of Hera, passing unharmed through countless tribes of the Celts and Ligians. For round them the goddess poured a dread mist day by day as they fared on. And so, sailing through the midmost mouth, they reached the Stoechades islands in safety by the aid of the sons of Zeus; wherefore altars and sacred rites are established in their honour for ever; and not that sea-faring alone did they attend to succour; but Zeus granted to them the ships of future sailors too. Then leaving the Stoechades they passed on to the island Aethalia, where after their toil they wiped away with pebbles sweat in abundance; and pebbles like skin in colour are strewn on the beach; and there are their quoits and their wondrous armour; and there is the Argoan harbour called after them.

[659] And quickly from there they passed through the sea, beholding the Tyrrhenian shores of Ausonia; and they came to the famous harbour of Aeaëa, and from the ship they cast hawsers to the shore near at hand. And here they found Circe bathing her head in the salt sea-spray, for sorely had she been scared by visions of the night. With blood her chambers and all the walls of her palace seemed to be running, and flame was devouring all the magic herbs with which she used to bewitch strangers whoever came; and she herself with murderous blood quenched the glowing flame, drawing it up in her hands; and she ceased from deadly fear. Wherefore when morning came she rose, and with sea-spray was bathing her hair and her garments. And beasts, not resembling the beasts of the wild, nor yet like men in body, but with a medley of limbs, went in a throng, as sheep from the fold in multitudes follow the shepherd. Such creatures, compacted of various limbs, did each herself produce from the primeval slime when she had not yet grown solid beneath a rainless sky nor yet had received a drop of moisture from the rays of the scorching sun; but time combined these forms and marshalled them in their ranks; in such wise these monsters shapeless of form followed her. And exceeding wonder seized the heroes, and at once, as each gazed on the form and face of Circe, they readily guessed that she was the sister of Aeetes.

[685] Now when she had dismissed the fears of her nightly visions, straightway she fared backwards, and in her subtlety she bade the heroes follow, charming them on with her hand. Thereupon the host remained steadfast at the bidding of Aeson's son, but Jason drew with him the Colchian maid. And both followed the selfsame path till they reached the hall of Circe, and she in amaze at their coming bade them sit on brightly burnished seats. And they, quiet and silent, sped to the hearth and sat there, as is the wont of wretched suppliants. Medea hid her face in both her hands, but Jason fixed in the ground the mighty hilted sword with which he had slain Aeetes' son; nor did they raise their eyes to meet her look. And straightway Circe became aware of the doom of a suppliant and the guilt of murder. Wherefore in reverence for the ordinance of Zeus, the god of suppliants, who is a god of

wrath yet mightily aids slayers of men, she began to offer the sacrifice with which ruthless suppliants are cleansed from guilt when they approach the altar. First, to atone for the murder still unexpiated, she held above their heads the young of a sow whose dugs yet swelled from the fruit of the womb, and, severing its neck, sprinkled their hands with the blood; and again she made propitiation with other drink offerings, calling on Zeus the Cleanser, the protector of murder- stained suppliants. And all the defilements in a mass her attendants bore forth from the palace — the Naiad nymphs who ministered all things to her. And within, Circe, standing by the hearth, kept burning atonement-cakes without wine, praying the while that she might stay from their wrath the terrible Furies, and that Zeus himself might be propitious and gentle to them both, whether with hands stained by the blood of a stranger or, as kinsfolk, by the blood of a kinsman, they should implore his grace.

[718] But when she had wrought all her task, then she raised them up and seated them on well polished seats, and herself sat near, face to face with them. And at once she asked them clearly of their business and their voyaging, and whence they had come to her land and palace, and had thus seated themselves as suppliants at her hearth. For in truth the hideous remembrance of her dreams entered her mind as she pondered; and she longed to hear the voice of the maiden, her kinswoman, as soon as she saw that she had raised her eyes from the ground. For all those of the race of Helios were plain to discern, since by the far flashing of their eyes they shot in front of them a gleam as of gold. So Medea told her all she asked — the daughter of Aeetes of the gloomy heart, speaking gently in the Colchian tongue, both of the quest and the journeyings of the heroes, and of their toils in the swift contests, and how she had sinned through the counsels of her much-sorrowing sister, and how with the sons of Phrixus she had fled afar from the tyrannous horrors of her father; but she shrank from telling of the murder of Apsyrtus. Yet she escaped not Circe's ken; nevertheless, in spite of all, she pitied the weeping maiden, and spake thus: "Poor wretch, an evil and shameful return hast thou planned. Not for long, I ween, wilt thou escape the heavy wrath of Aeetes; but soon will he go even to the dwellings of Hellas to avenge the blood of his son, for intolerable are the deeds thou hast done. But since thou art my suppliant and my kinswoman, no further ill shall I devise against thee at thy coming; but begone from my halls, companioning the stranger, whosoever he be, this unknown one that thou hast taken in thy father's despite; and kneel not to me at my hearth, for never will I approve thy counsels and thy shameful flight."

[749] Thus she spake, and measureless anguish seized the maid; and over her eyes she cast her robe and poured forth a lamentation, until the hero took her by the hand and led her forth from the hall quivering with fear. So they left the home of Circe.

[753] But they were not unmarked by the spouse of Zeus, son of Cronos; but Iris told her when she saw them faring from the hall. For Hera had bidden her

watch what time they should come to the ship; so again she urged her and spake: "Dear Iris, now come, if ever thou hast fulfilled my bidding, hie thee away on light pinions, and bid Thetis arise from the sea and come hither. For need of her is come upon me. Then go to the sea-beaches where the bronze anvils of Hephaestus are smitten by sturdy hammers, and tell him to still the blasts of fire until Argo pass by them. Then go to Aeolus too, Aeolus who rules the winds, children of the clear sky; and to him also tell my purpose so that he may make all winds cease under heaven and no breeze may ruffle the sea; yet let the breath of the west wind blow until the heroes have reached the Phaeacian isle of Alcinous."

[770] So she spake, and straightway Iris leapt down from Olympus and cleft her way, with light wings outspread. And she plunged into the Aegean Sea, where is the dwelling of Nereus. And she came to Thetis first and, by the promptings of Hera, told her tale and roused her to go to the goddess. Next she came to Hephaestus, and quickly made him cease from the clang of his iron hammers; and the smoke-grimed bellows were stayed from their blast. And thirdly she came to Aeolus, the famous son of Hippotas. And when she had given her message to him also and rested her swift knees from her course, then Thetis leaving Nereus and her sisters had come from the sea to Olympus to the goddess Hera; and the goddess made her sit by her side and uttered her word: "Hearken now, lady Thetis, to what I am eager to tell thee. Thou knowest how honoured in my heart is the hero, Aeson's son, and the others that have helped him in the contest, and how I saved them when they passed between the Wandering rocks, where roar terrible storms of fire and the waves foam round the rugged reefs. And now past the mighty rock of Scylla and Charybdis horribly belching, a course awaits them. But thee indeed from thy infancy did I tend with my own hands and love beyond all others that dwell in the salt sea because thou didst refuse to share the couch of Zeus, for all his desire. For to him such deeds are ever dear, to embrace either goddesses or mortal women. But in reverence for me and with fear in thy heart thou didst shrink from his love; and he then swore a mighty oath that thou shouldst never be called the bride of an immortal god. Yet he ceased not from spying thee against thy will, until reverend Themis declared to him the whole truth, how that it was thy fate to bear a son mightier than his sire; wherefore he gave thee up, for all his desire, fearing lest another should be his match and rule the immortals, and in order that he might ever hold his own dominion. But I gave thee the best of the sons of earth to be thy husband, that thou mightest find a marriage dear to thy heart and bear children; and I summoned to the feast the gods, one and all. And with my own hand I raised the bridal torch, in return for the kindly honour thou didst pay me. But come, let me tell a tale that erreth not. When thy son shall come to the Elysian plain, he whom now in the home of Cheiron the Centaur water-nymphs are tending, though he still craves thy mother milk, it is fated that he be the husband of Medea, Aeetes' daughter; do thou aid thy daughter-in-law as a mother-in-law should, and aid

Peleus himself. Why is thy wrath so steadfast? He was blinded by folly. For blindness comes even upon the gods. Surely at my behest I deem that Hephaestus will cease from kindling the fury of his flame, and that Aeolus, son of Hippotas, will check his swift rushing winds, all but the steady west wind, until they reach the havens of the Phaeacians; do thou devise a return without bane. The rocks and the tyrannous waves are my fear, they alone, and them thou canst foil with thy sisters' aid. And let them not fall in their helplessness into Charybdis lest she swallow them at one gulp, or approach the hideous lair of Scylla, Ausonian Scylla the deadly, whom night-wandering Hecate, who is called Crataeis, bare to Phoreys, lest swooping upon them with her horrible jaws she destroy the chiefest of the heroes. But guide their ship in the course where there shall be still a hair's breadth escape from destruction."

[833] Thus she spake, and Thetis answered with these words: "If the fury of the ravening flame and the stormy winds cease in very deed, surely will I promise boldly to save the ship, even though the waves bar the way, if only the west wind blows fresh and clear. But it is time to fare on a long and measureless path, in quest of my sisters who will aid me, and to the spot where the ship's hawsers are fastened, that at early dawn the heroes may take thought to win their home-return."

[842] She spake, and darting down from the sky fell amid the eddies of the dark blue sea; and she called to aid her the rest of the Nereids, her own sisters; and they heard her and gathered together; and Thetis declared to them Hera's behests, and quickly sped them all on their way to the Ausonian sea. And herself, swifter than the flash of an eye or the shafts of the sun, when it rises upwards from a far-distant land, hastened swiftly through the sea, until she reached the Aeaeon beach of the Tyrrhenian mainland. And the heroes she found by the ship taking their pastime with quoits and shooting of arrows; and she drew near and just touched the hand of Aeaeus' son Peleus, for he was her husband; nor could anyone see her clearly, but she appeared to his eyes alone, and thus addressed him: "No longer now must ye stay sitting on the Tyrrhenian beach, but at dawn loosen the hawsers of your swift ship, in obedience to Hera, your helper. For at her behest the maiden daughters of Nereus have met together to draw your ship through the midst of the rocks which are called Planctae, for that is your destined path. But do thou show my person to no one, when thou seest us come to meet time, but keep it secret in thy mind, lest thou anger me still more than thou didst anger me before so recklessly."

[865] She spake, and vanished into the depths of the sea; but sharp pain smote Peleus, for never before had he seen her come, since first she left her bridal chamber and bed in anger, on account of noble Achilles, then a babe. For she ever encompassed the child's mortal flesh in the night with the flame of fire; and day by day she anointed with ambrosia his tender frame, so that he might become immortal and that she might keep off from his body loathsome old age. But Peleus leapt up from his bed and saw his dear son gasping in the

flame; and at the sight he uttered a terrible cry, fool that he was; and she heard it, and catching up the child threw him screaming to the ground, and herself like a breath of wind passed swiftly from the hall as a dream and leapt into the sea, exceeding wroth, and thereafter returned not again. Wherefore blank amazement fettered his soul; nevertheless he declared to his comrades all the bidding of Thetis. And they broke off in the midst and hurriedly ceased their contests, and prepared their meal and earth-strewn beds, whereon after supper they slept through the night as aforetime.

[885] Now when dawn the light-bringer was touching the edge of heaven, then at the coming of the swift west wind they went to their thwarts from the land; and gladly did they draw up the anchors from the deep and made the tackling ready in due order; and above spread the sail, stretching it taut with the sheets from the yard-arm. And a fresh breeze wafted the ship on. And soon they saw a fair island, Anthemoessa, where the clear-voiced Sirens, daughters of Achelous, used to beguile with their sweet songs whoever cast anchor there, and then destroy him. Them lovely Terpsichore, one of the Muses, bare, united with Achelous; and once they tended Demeter's noble daughter still unwed, and sang to her in chorus; and at that time they were fashioned in part like birds and in part like maidens to behold. And ever on the watch from their place of prospect with its fair haven, often from many had they taken away their sweet return, consuming them with wasting desire; and suddenly to the heroes, too, they sent forth from their lips a lily-like voice. And they were already about to cast from the ship the hawsers to the shore, had not Thracian Orpheus, son of Oeagrus, stringing in his hands his Bistonian lyre, rung forth the hasty snatch of a rippling melody so that their ears might be filled with the sound of his twanging; and the lyre overcame the maidens' voice. And the west wind and the sounding wave rushing astern bore the ship on; and the Sirens kept uttering their ceaseless song. But even so the goodly son of Teleon alone of the comrades leapt before them all from the polished bench into the sea, even Butes, his soul melted by the clear ringing voice of the Sirens; and he swam through the dark surge to mount the beach, poor wretch. Quickly would they have robbed him of his return then and there, but the goddess that rules Eryx, Cypris, in pity snatched him away, while yet in the eddies, and graciously meeting him saved him to dwell on the Lilybean height. And the heroes, seized by anguish, left the Sirens, but other perils still worse, destructive to ships, awaited them in the meeting-place of the seas.

[922] For on one side appeared the smooth rock of Scylla; on the other Charybdis ceaselessly spouted and roared; in another part the Wandering rocks were booming beneath the mighty surge, where before the burning flame spurted forth from the top of the crags, above the rock glowing with fire, and the air was misty with smoke, nor could you have seen the sun's light. Then, though Hephaestus had ceased from his toils, the sea was still sending up a warm vapour. Hereupon on this side and on that the daughters of

Nereus met them; and behind, lady Thetis set her hand to the rudder-blade, to guide them amid the Wandering rocks. And as when in fair weather herds of dolphins come up from the depths and sport in circles round a ship as it speeds along, now seen in front, now behind, now again at the side and delight comes to the sailors; so the Nereids darted upward and circled in their ranks round the ship Argo, while Thetis guided its course. And when they were about to touch the Wandering rocks, straightway they raised the edge of their garments over their snow-white knees, and aloft, on the very rocks and where the waves broke, they hurried along on this side and on that apart from one another. And the ship was raised aloft as the current smote her, and all around the furious wave mounting up broke over the rocks, which at one time touched the sky like towering crags, at another, down in the depths, were fixed fast at the bottom of the sea and the fierce waves poured over them in floods. And the Nereids, even as maidens near some sandy beach roll their garments up to their waists out of their way and sport with a shapely-rounded ball; then they catch it one from another and send it high into the air; and it never touches the ground; so they in turn one from another sent the ship through the air over the waves, as it sped on ever away from the rocks; and round them the water spouted and foamed. And lord Hephaestus himself standing on the summit of a smooth rock and resting his massy shoulder on the handle of his hammer, beheld them, and the spouse of Zeus beheld them as she stood above the gleaming heaven; and she threw her arms round Athena, such fear seized her as she gazed. And as long as the space of a day is lengthened out in springtime, so long a time did they toil, heaving the ship between the loud-echoing rocks; then again the heroes caught the wind and sped onward; and swiftly they passed the mead of Thrinacia, where the kine of Helios fed. There the nymphs, like sea-mews, plunged beneath the depths, when they had fulfilled the behests of the spouse of Zeus. And at the same time the bleating of sheep came to the heroes through the mist and the lowing of kine, near at hand, smote their ears. And over the dewy leas Phaethusa, the youngest of the daughters of Helios, tended the sheep, bearing in her hand a silver crook; while Lampetia, herding the kine, wielded a staff of glowing orichalcum as she followed. These kine the heroes saw feeding by the river's stream, over the plain and the water-meadow; not one of them was dark in hue but all were white as milk and glorying in their horns of gold. So they passed them by in the day-time, and when night came on they were cleaving a great sea-gulf, rejoicing, until again early rising dawn threw light upon their course.

[982] Fronting the Ionian gulf there lies an island in the Ceraunian sea, rich in soil, with a harbour on both sides, beneath which lies the sickle, as legend saith — grant me grace, O Muses, not willingly do I tell this tale of olden days — wherewith Cronos pitilessly mutilated his father; but others call it the reaping-hook of Demeter, goddess of the nether world. For Demeter once dwelt in that island, and taught the Titans to reap the ears of corn, all for the love of Macris. Whence it is called Drepane, the sacred nurse of the

Phaeacians; and thus the Phaeacians themselves are by birth of the blood of Uranus. To them came Argo, held fast by many toils, borne by the breezes from the Thrinacian sea; and Alcinous and his people with kindly sacrifice gladly welcomed their coming; and over them all the city made merry; thou wouldst say they were rejoicing over their own sons. And the heroes themselves strode in gladness through the throng, even as though they had set foot in the heart of Haemonia; but soon were they to arm and raise the battle-cry; so near to them appeared a boundless host of Colchians, who had passed through the mouth of Pontus and between the Cyanean rocks in search of the chieftains. They desired forthwith to carry off Medea to her father's house apart from the rest, or else they threatened with fierce cruelty to raise the dread war-cry both then and thereafter on the coming of Aeetes. But lordly Alcinous checked them amid their eagerness for war. For he longed to allay the lawless strife between both sides without the clash of battle. And the maiden in deadly fear often implored the comrades of Aeson's son, and often with her hands touched the knees of Arete, the bride of Alcinous: "I beseech thee, O queen, be gracious and deliver me not to the Colchians to be borne to my father, if thou thyself too art one of the race of mortals, whose heart rushes swiftly to ruin from light transgressions. For my firm sense forsook me — it was not for wantonness. Be witness the sacred light of Helios, be witness the rites of the maiden that wanders by night, daughter of Perses. Not willingly did I haste from my home with men of an alien race; but a horrible fear wrought on me to bethink me of flight when I sinned; other device was there none. Still my maiden's girdle remains, as in the halls of my father, unstained, untouched. Pity me, lady, and turn thy lord to mercy; and may the immortals grant thee a perfect life, and joy, and children, and the glory of a city unravaged!"

[1029] Thus did she implore Arete, shedding tears, and thus each of the chieftains in turn: "On your account, ye men of peerless might, and on account of my toils in your ventures am I sorely afflicted; even I, by whose help ye yoked the bulls, and reaped the deadly harvest of the earthborn men; even I, through whom on your homeward path ye shall bear to Haemonia the golden fleece. Lo, here am I, who have lost my country and my parents, who have lost my home and all the delights of life; to you have I restored your country and your homes; with eyes of gladness ye will see again your parents; but from me a heavy-handed god has raft all joy; and with strangers I wander, an accursed thing. Fear your covenant and your oaths, fear the Fury that avenges suppliants and the retribution of heaven, if I fall into Aeetes' hands and am slain with grievous outrage. To no shrines, no tower of defence, no other refuge do I pay heed, but only to you. Hard and pitiless in your cruelty! No reverence have ye for me in your heart though ye see me helpless, stretching my hands towards the knees of a stranger queen; yet, when ye longed to seize the fleece, ye would have met all the Colchians face to thee and haughty Aeetes himself; but now ye have forgotten your courage, now

that they are all alone and cut off."

[1053] Thus she spake, beseeching; and to whomsoever she bowed in prayer, that man tried to give her heart and to check her anguish. And in their hands they shook their sharp pointed spears, and drew the swords from their sheaths; and they swore they would not hold back from giving succour, if she should meet with an unrighteous judgement. And the host were all wearied and Night came on them, Night that puts to rest the works of men, and lulled all the earth to sleep; but to the maid no sleep brought rest, but in her bosom her heart was wrung with anguish. Even as when a toiling woman turns her spindle through the night, and round her moan her orphan children, for she is a widow, and down her cheeks fall the tears, as she bethinks her how dreary a lot hath seized her; so Medea's cheeks were wet; and her heart within her was in agony, pierced with sharp pain.

[1068] Now within the palace in the city, as aforetime, lay lordly Alcinous and Arete, the revered wife of Alcinous, and on their couch through the night they were devising plans about the maiden; and him, as her wedded husband, the wife addressed with loving words: "Yea, my friend, come, save the woe-stricken maid from the Colchians and show grace to the Minyae. Argos is near our isle and the men of Haemonia; but Aeetes dwells not near, nor do we know of Aeetes one whit: we hear but his name; but this maiden of dread suffering hath broken my heart by her prayers. O king, give her not up to the Colchians to be borne back to her father's home. She was distraught when first she gave him the drugs to charm the oxen; and next, to cure one ill by another, as in our sinning we do often, she fled from her haughty sire's heavy wrath. But Jason, as I hear, is bound to her by mighty oaths that he will make her his wedded wife within his halls. Wherefore, my friend, make not, of thy will, Aeson's son to be forsworn, nor let the father, if thou canst help, work with angry heart some intolerable mischief on his child. For fathers are all too jealous against their children; what wrong did Nycteus devise against Antiope, fair of face! What woes did Danae endure on the wide sea through her sire's mad rage! Of late, and not far away, Echetus in wanton cruelty thrust spikes of bronze in his daughter's eyes; and by a grievous fate is she wasting away, grinding grains of bronze in a dungeon's gloom."

[1096] Thus she spake, beseeching; and by his wife's words his heart was softened, and thus he spake: "Arete, with arms I could drive forth the Colchians, showing grace to the heroes for the maiden's sake. But I fear to set at nought the righteous judgment of Zeus. Nor is it well to take no thought of Aeetes, as thou sayest: for none is more lordly than Aeetes. And, if he willed, he might bring war upon Hellas, though he dwell afar. Wherefore it is right for me to deliver the judgement that in all men's eyes shall be best; and I will not hide it from thee. If she be yet a maid I decree that they carry her back to her father; but if she shares a husband's bed, I will not separate her from her lord; nor, if she bear a child beneath her breast, will I give it up to an enemy."

[1110] Thus he spake, and at once sleep laid him to rest. And she stored up in

her heart the word of wisdom, and straightway rose from her couch and went through the palace; and her handmaids came hasting together, eagerly tending their mistress. But quietly she summoned her herald and addressed him, in her prudence urging Aeson's son to wed the maiden, and not to implore Alcinous; for he himself, she said, will decree to the Colchians that if she is still a maid he will deliver her up to be borne to her father's house, but that if she shares a husband's bed he will not sever her from wedded love.

[1121] Thus she spake, and quickly from the hall his feet bore him, that he might declare to Jason the fair-omened speech of Arete and the counsel of godfearing Alcinous. And he found the heroes watching in full armour in the haven of Hyllus, near the city; and out he spake the whole message; and each hero's heart rejoiced; for the word that he spake was welcome.

[1128] And straightway they mingled a bowl to the blessed ones, as is right, and reverently led sheep to the altar, and for that very night prepared for the maiden the bridal couch in the sacred cave, where once dwelt Macris, the daughter of Aristaeus, lord of honey, who discovered the works of bees and the fatness of the olive, the fruit of labour. She it was that first received in her bosom the Nysean son of Zeus in Abantian Euboea, and with honey moistened his parched lips when Hermes bore him out of the flame. And Hera beheld it, and in wrath drove her from the whole island. And she accordingly came to dwell far off, in the sacred cave of the Phaeacians, and granted boundless wealth to the inhabitants. There at that time did they spread a mighty couch; and thereon they laid the glittering fleece of gold, that so the marriage might be made honoured and the theme of song. And for them nymphs gathered flowers of varied hue and bore them thither in their white bosoms; and a splendour as of flame played round them all, such a light gleamed from the golden tufts. And in their eyes it kindled a sweet longing; yet for all her desire, awe withheld each one from laying her hand thereon. Some were called daughters of the river Aegaeus; others dwelt round the crests of the Meliteian mount; and others were woodland nymphs from the plains. For Hera herself, the spouse of Zeus, had sent them to do honour to Jason. That cave is to this day called the sacred cave of Medea, where they spread the fine and fragrant linen and brought these two together. And the heroes in their hands wielded their spears for war, lest first a host of foes should burst upon them for battle unawares, and, their heads enwreathed with leafy sprays, all in harmony, while Orpheus' harp rang clear, sang the marriage song at the entrance to the bridal chamber. Yet not in the house of Alcinous was the hero, Aeson's son, minded to complete his marriage, but in his father's hall when he had returned home to Ioleus; and such was the mind of Medea herself; but necessity led them to wed at this time. For never in truth do we tribes of woe-stricken mortals tread the path of delight with sure foot; but still some bitter affliction keeps pace with our joy. Wherefore they too, though their souls were melted with sweet love, were held by fear, whether the sentence of Alcinous would be fulfilled.

[1170] Now dawn returning with her beams divine scattered the gloomy night through the sky; and the island beaches laughed out and the paths over the plains far off, drenched with dew, and there was a din in the streets; the people were astir throughout the city, and far away the Colchians were astir at the bounds of the isle of Macris. And straightway to them went Alcinous, by reason of his covenant, to declare his purpose concerning the maiden, and in his hand he held a golden staff, his staff of justice, whereby the people had righteous judgments meted out to them throughout the city. And with him in order due and arrayed in their harness of war went marching, band by band, the chiefs of the Phaeacians. And from the towers came forth the women in crowds to gaze upon the heroes; and the country folk came to meet them when they heard the news, for Hera had sent forth a true report. And one led the chosen ram of his flock, and another a heifer that had never toiled; and others set hard by jars of wine for mixing; and the smoke of sacrifice leapt up far away. And women bore fine linen, the fruit of much toil, as women will, and gifts of gold and varied ornaments as well, such as are brought to newly-wedded brides; and they marvelled when they saw the shapely forms and beauty of the gallant heroes, and among them the son of Oeagrus, oft beating the ground with gleaming sandal, to the time of his loud-ringing lyre and song. And all the nymphs together, whenever he recalled the marriage, uplifted the lovely bridal-chant; and at times again they sang alone as they circled in the dance, Hera, in thy honour; for it was thou that didst put it into the heart of Arete to proclaim the wise word of Alcinous. And as soon as he had uttered the decree of his righteous judgement, and the completion of the marriage had been proclaimed, he took care that thus it should abide fixed; and no deadly fear touched him nor Aeetes' grievous wrath, but he kept his judgement fast bound by unbroken oaths. So when the Colchians learnt that they were beseeching in vain and he bade them either observe his judgements or hold their ships away from his harbours and land, then they began to dread the threats of their own king and besought Alcinous to receive them as comrades; and there in the island long time they dwelt with the Phaeacians, until in the course of years, the Bacchiadae, a race sprung from Ephyra, settled among them; and the Colchians passed to an island opposite; and thence they were destined to reach the Ceraunian hills of the Abantes, and the Nestaeans and Oricum; but all this was fulfilled after long ages had passed. And still the altars which Medea built on the spot sacred to Apollo, god of shepherds, receive yearly sacrifices in honour of the Fates and the Nymphs. And when the Minyae departed many gifts of friendship did Alcinous bestow, and many Arete; moreover she gave Medea twelve Phaeacian handmaids from the palace, to bear her company. And on the seventh day they left Drepane; and at dawn came a fresh breeze from Zeus. And onward they sped borne along by the wind's breath. Howbeit not yet was it ordained for the heroes to set foot on Achaea, until they had toiled even in the furthest bounds of Libya.

[1228] Now had they left behind the gulf named after the Ambracians, now

with sails wide spread the land of the Curetes, and next in order the narrow islands with the Echinades, and the land of Pelops was just descried; even then a baleful blast of the north wind seized them in mid-course and swept them towards the Libyan sea nine nights and as many days, until they came far within Syrtis, wherefrom is no return for ships, when they are once forced into that gulf. For on every hand are shoals, on every hand masses of seaweed from the depths; and over them the light foam of the wave washes without noise; and there is a stretch of sand to the dim horizon; and there moveth nothing that creeps or flies. Here accordingly the flood-tide — for this tide often retreats from the land and bursts back again over the beach coming on with a rush and roar — thrust them suddenly on to the innermost shore, and but little of the keel was left in the water. And they leapt forth from the ship, and sorrow seized them when they gazed on the mist and the levels of vast land stretching far like a mist and continuous into the distance; no spot for water, no path, no steading of herdsmen did they descry afar off, but all the scene was possessed by a dead calm. And thus did one hero, vexed in spirit, ask another: “What land is this? Whither has the tempest hurled us? Would that, reckless of deadly fear, we had dared to rush on by that same path between the clashing rocks! Better were it to have overleapt the will of Zeus and perished in venturing some mighty deed. But now what should we do, held back by the winds to stay here, if ever so short a time? How desolate looms before us the edge of the limitless land!”

[1259] Thus one spake; and among them Ancaeus the helmsman, in despair at their evil case, spoke with grieving heart: “Verily we are undone by a terrible doom; there is no escape from ruin; we must suffer the cruellest woes, having fallen on this desolation, even though breezes should blow from the land; for, as I gaze far around, on every side do I behold a sea of shoals, and masses of water, fretted line upon line, run over the hoary sand. And miserably long ago would our sacred ship have been shattered far from the shore; but the tide itself bore her high on to the land from the deep sea. But now the tide rushes back to the sea, and only the foam, whereon no ship can sail, rolls round us, just covering the land. Wherefore I deem that all hope of our voyage and of our return is cut off. Let someone else show his skill; let him sit at the helm the man that is eager for our deliverance. But Zeus has no will to fulfil our day of return after all our toils.”

[1277] Thus he spake with tears, and all of them that had knowledge of ships agreed thereto; but the hearts of all grew numb, and pallor overspread their cheeks. And as, like lifeless spectres, men roam through a city awaiting the issue of war or of pestilence, or some mighty storm which overwhelms the countless labours of oxen, when the images of their own accord sweat and run down with blood, and bellowings are heard in temples, or when at mid-day the sun draws on night from heaven, and the stars shine clear through the mist; so at that time along the endless strand the chieftains wandered, groping their way. Then straightway dark evening came upon them; and piteously did

they embrace each other and say farewell with tears, that they might, each one apart from his fellow, fall on the sand and die. And this way and that they went further to choose a resting-place; and they wrapped their heads in their cloaks and, fasting and unfed, lay down all that night and the day, awaiting a piteous death. But apart the maidens huddled together lamented beside the daughter of Aeetes. And as when, forsaken by their mother, unfledged birds that have fallen from a cleft in the rock chirp shrilly; or when by the banks of fair-flowing Pactolus, swans raise their song, and all around the dewy meadow echoes and the river's fair stream; so these maidens, laying in the dust their golden hair, all through the night wailed their piteous lament. And there all would have parted from life without a name and unknown to mortal men, those bravest of heroes, with their task unfulfilled; but as they pined in despair, the heroine-nymphs, warders of Libya, had pity on them, they who once found Athena, what time she leapt in gleaming armour from her father's head, and bathed her by Triton's waters. It was noon-tide and the fiercest rays of the sun were scorching Libya; they stood near Aeson's son, and lightly drew the cloak from his head. And the hero cast down his eyes and looked aside, in reverence for the goddesses, and as he lay bewildered all alone they addressed him openly with gentle words:

[1318] "Ill-starred one, why art thou so smitten with despair? We know how ye went in quest of the golden fleece; we know each toil of yours, all the mighty deeds ye wrought in your wanderings over land and sea. We are the solitary ones, goddesses of the land, speaking with human voice, the heroines, Libya's warders and daughters. Up then; be not thus afflicted in thy misery, and rouse thy comrades. And when Amphitrite has straightway loosed Poseidon's swift-wheeled car, then do ye pay to your mother a recompense for all her travail when she bare you so long in her womb; and so ye may return to the divine land of Achaea."

[1330] Thus they spake, and with the voice vanished at once, where they stood. But Jason sat upon the earth as he gazed around, and thus cried: "Be gracious, noble goddesses of the desert, yet the saying about our return I understand not clearly. Surely I will gather together my comrades and tell them, if haply we can find some token of our escape, for the counsel of many is better."

[1337] He spake, and leapt to his feet, and shouted afar to his comrades, all squalid with dust, like a lion when he roars through the woodland seeking his mate; and far off in the mountains the glens tremble at the thunder of his voice; and the oxen of the field and the herdsmen shudder with fear; yet to them Jason's voice was no whit terrible the voice of a comrade calling to his friends. And with looks downcast they gathered near, and hard by where the ship lay he made them sit down in their grief and the women with them, and addressed them and told them everything: "Listen, friends; as I lay in my grief, three goddesses girded with goat-skins from the neck downwards round the back and waist, like maidens, stood over my head nigh at hand; and they

uncovered me, drawing my cloak away with light hand, and they bade me rise up myself and go and rouse you, and pay to our mother a bounteous recompense for all her travail when she bare us so long in her womb, when Amphitrite shall have loosed Poseidon's swift-wheeled car. But I cannot fully understand concerning this divine message. They said indeed that they were heroines, Libya's warders and daughters; and all the toils that we endured aforetime by land and sea, all these they declared that they knew full well. Then I saw them no more in their place, but a mist or cloud came between and hid them from my sight."

[1363] Thus he spake, and all marvelled as they heard. Then was wrought for the Minyae the strangest of portents. From the sea to the land leapt forth a monstrous horse, of vast size, with golden mane tossing round his neck; and quickly from his limbs he shook off abundant spray and started on his course, with feet like the wind. And at once Peleus rejoiced and spake among the throng of his comrades: "I deem that Poseidon's ear has even now been loosed by the hands of his dear wife, and I divine that our mother is none else than our ship herself; for surely she bare us in her womb and groans unceasingly with grievous travailing. But with unshaken strength and untiring shoulders will we lift her up and bear her within this country of sandy wastes, where yon swift-footed steed has sped before. For he will not plunge beneath the earth; and his hoof-prints, I ween, will point us to some bay above the sea."

[1380] Thus he spake, and the fit counsel pleased all. This is the tale the Muses told; and I sing obedient to the Pierides, and this report have I heard most truly; that ye, O mightiest far of the sons of kings, by your might and your valour over the desert sands of Libya raised high aloft on your shoulders the ship and all that ye brought therein, and bare her twelve days and nights alike. Yet who could tell the pain and grief which they endured in that toil? Surely they were of the blood of the immortals, such a task did they take on them, constrained by necessity. How forward and how far they bore her gladly to the waters of the Tritonian lake! How they strode in and set her down from their stalwart shoulders!

[1393] Then, like raging hounds, they rushed to search for a spring; for besides their suffering and anguish, a parching thirst lay upon them, and not in vain did they wander; but they came to the sacred plain where Ladon, the serpent of the land, till yesterday kept watch over the golden apples in the garden of Atlas; and all around the nymphs, the Hesperides, were busied, chanting their lovely song. But at that time, stricken by Heracles, he lay fallen by the trunk of the apple-tree; only the tip of his tail was still writhing; but from his head down his dark spine he lay lifeless; and where the arrows had left in his blood the bitter gall of the Lernaean hydra, flies withered and died over the festering wounds. And close at hand the Hesperides, their white arms flung over their golden heads, lamented shrilly; and the heroes drew near suddenly; but the maidens, at their quick approach, at once became dust and earth where they stood. Orpheus marked the divine portent, and for his

comrades addressed them in prayer: "O divine ones, fair and kind, be gracious, O queens, whether ye be numbered among the heavenly goddesses, or those beneath the earth, or be called the Solitary nymphs; come, O nymphs, sacred race of Oceanus, appear manifest to our longing eyes and show us some spring of water from the rock or some sacred flow gushing from the earth, goddesses, wherewith we may quench the thirst that burns us unceasingly. And if ever again we return in our voyaging to the Achaeian land, then to you among the first of goddesses with willing hearts will we bring countless gifts, libations and banquets."

[1422] So he spake, beseeching them with plaintive voice; and they from their station near pitied their pain; and lo! First of all they caused grass to spring from the earth; and above the grass rose up tall shoots, and then flourishing saplings grew standing upright far above the earth. Hesperie became a poplar and Eretheis an elm, and Aegle a willow's sacred trunk. And forth from these trees their forms looked out, as clear as they were before, a marvel exceeding great, and Aegle spake with gentle words answering their longing looks: "Surely there has come hither a mighty succour to your toils, that most accursed man, who robbed our guardian serpent of life and plucked the golden apples of the goddesses and is gone; and has left bitter grief for us. For yesterday came a man most fell in wanton violence, most grim in form; and his eyes flashed beneath his scowling brow; a ruthless wretch; and he was clad in the skin of a monstrous lion of raw hide, untanned; and he bare a sturdy bow of olive, and a bow, wherewith he shot and killed this monster here. So he too came, as one traversing the land on foot, parched with thirst; and he rushed wildly through this spot, searching for water, but nowhere was he like to see it. Now here stood a rock near the Tritonian lake; and of his own device, or by the prompting of some god, he smote it below with his foot; and the water gushed out in full flow. And he, leaning both his hands and chest upon the ground, drank a huge draught from the rifted rock, until, stooping like a beast of the field, he had satisfied his mighty maw."

[1450] Thus she spake; and they gladly with joyful steps ran to the spot where Aegle had pointed out to them the spring, until they reached it. And as when earth-burrowing ants gather in swarms round a narrow cleft, or when flies lighting upon a tiny drop of sweet honey cluster round with insatiate eagerness; so at that time, huddled together, the Minyae thronged about the spring from the rock. And thus with wet lips one cried to another in his delight: "Strange! In very truth Heracles, though far away, has saved his comrades, fordone with thirst. Would that we might find him on his way as we pass through the mainland!"

[1461] So they spake, and those who were ready for this work answered, and they separated this way and that, each starting to search. For by the night winds the footsteps had been effaced where the sand was stirred. The two sons of Boreas started up, trusting in their wings; and Euphemus, relying on his swift feet, and Lynceus to cast far his piercing eyes; and with them darted off

Canthus, the fifth. He was urged on by the doom of the gods and his own courage, that he might learn for certain from Heracles where he had left Polyphemos, son of Eilatus; for he was minded to question him on every point concerning his comrade. But that hero had founded a glorious city among the Mysians, and, yearning for his home-return, had passed far over the mainland in search of Argo; and in time he reached the land of the Chalybes, who dwell near the sea; there it was that his fate subdued him. And to him a monument stands under a tall poplar, just facing the sea. But that day Lynceus thought he saw Heracles all alone, far off, over measureless land, as a man at the month's beginning sees, or thinks he sees, the moon through a bank of cloud. And he returned and told his comrades that no other searcher would find Heracles on his way, and they also came back, and swift-footed Euphemus and the twin sons of Thracian Boreas, after a vain toil.

[1485] But thee, Canthus, the fates of death seized in Libya. On pasturing flocks didst thou light; and there followed a shepherd who, in defence of his own sheep, while thou wert leading them off to thy comrades in their need, slew thee by the cast of a stone; for he was no weakling, Caphaurus, the grandson of Lycorean Phoebus and the chaste maiden Acacallis, whom once Minos drove from home to dwell in Libya, his own daughter, when she was bearing the gods' heavy load; and she bare to Phoebus a glorious son, whom they call Amphithemis and Garamas. And Amphithemis wedded a Tritonian nymph; and she bare to him Nasamon and strong Caphaurus, who on that day in defending his sheep slew Canthus. But he escaped not the chieftains' avenging hands, when they learned the deed he had done. And the Minyae, when they knew it, afterwards took up the corpse and buried it in the earth, mourning; and the sheep they took with them.

[1502] Thereupon on the same day a pitiless fate seized Mopsus too, son of Ampycus; and he escaped not a bitter doom by his prophesying; for there is no averting of death. Now there lay in the sand, avoiding the midday heat, a dread serpent, too sluggish of his own will to strike at an unwilling foe, nor yet would he dart full face at one that would shrink back. But into whatever of all living beings that life-giving earth sustains that serpent once injects his black venom, his path to Hades becomes not so much as a cubit's length, not even if Paeon, if it is right for me to say this openly, should tend him, when its teeth have only grazed the skin. For when over Libya flew godlike Perseus Eurymedon for by that name his mother called him — bearing to the king the Gorgon's head newly severed, all the drops of dark blood that fell to the earth, produced a brood of those serpents. Now Mopsus stepped on the end of its spine, setting thereon the sole of his left foot; and it writhed round in pain and bit and tore the flesh between the shin and the muscles. And Medea and her handmaids fled in terror; but Canthus bravely felt the bleeding wound; for no excessive pain harassed him. Poor wretch! Already a numbness that loosed his limbs was stealing beneath his skin, and a thick mist was spreading over his eyes. Straightway his heavy limbs sank helplessly to the ground and he grew

cold; and his comrades and the hero, Aeson's son, gathered round, marvelling at the close-coming doom. Nor yet though dead might he lie beneath the sun even for a little space. For at once the poison began to rot his flesh within, and the hair decayed and fell from the skin. And quickly and in haste they dug a deep grave with mattocks of bronze; and they tore their hair, the heroes and the maidens, bewailing the dead man's piteous suffering; and when he had received due burial rites, thrice they marched round the tomb in full armour, and heaped above him a mound of earth.

[1537] But when they had gone aboard, as the south wind blew over the sea, and they were searching for a passage to go forth from the Tritonian lake, for long they had no device, but all the day were borne on aimlessly. And as a serpent goes writhing along his crooked path when the sun's fiercest rays scorch him; and with a hiss he turns his head to this side and that, and in his fury his eyes glow like sparks of fire, until he creeps to his lair through a cleft in the rock; so Argo seeking an outlet from the lake, a fairway for ships, wandered for a long time. Then straightway Orpheus bade them bring forth from the ship Apollo's massy tripod and offer it to the gods of the land as propitiation for their return. So they went forth and set Apollo's gift on the shore; then before them stood, in the form of a youth, farswaying Triton, and he lifted a clod from the earth and offered it as a stranger's gift, and thus spake: "Take it, friends, for no stranger's gift of great worth have I here by me now to place in the hands of those who beseech me. But if ye are searching for a passage through this sea, as often is the need of men passing through a strange land, I will declare it. For my sire Poseidon has made me to be well versed in this sea. And I rule the shore if haply in your distant land you have ever heard of Eurypylus, born in Libya, the home of wild beasts."

[1562] Thus he spake, and readily Euphemus held out his hands towards the clod, and thus addressed him in reply: "If haply, hero, thou knowest aught of Apis and the sea of Minos, tell us truly, who ask it of you. For not of our will have we come hither, but by the stress of heavy storms have we touched the borders of this land, and have borne our ship aloft on our shoulders to the waters of this lake over the mainland, grievously burdened; and we know not where a passage shows itself for our course to the land of Pelops."

[1571] So he spake; and Triton stretched out his hand and showed afar the sea and the lake's deep mouth, and then addressed them: "That is the outlet to the sea, where the deep water lies unmoved and dark; on each side roll white breakers with shining crests; and the way between for your passage out is narrow. And that sea stretches away in mist to the divine land of Pelops beyond Crete; but hold to the right, when ye have entered the swell of the sea from the lake, and steer your course hugging the land, as long as it trends to the north; but when the coast bends, falling away in the other direction, then your course is safely laid for you if ye go straight forward from the projecting cape. But go in joy, and as for labour let there be no grieving that limbs in youthful vigour should still toil."

[1586] He spake with kindly counsel; and they at once went aboard, intent to come forth from the lake by the use of oars. And eagerly they sped on; meanwhile Triton took up the mighty tripod, and they saw him enter the lake; but thereafter did no one mark how he vanished so near them along with the tripod. But their hearts were cheered, for that one of the blessed had met them in friendly guise. And they bade Aeson's son offer to him the choicest of the sheep and when he had slain it chant the hymn of praise. And straightway he chose in haste and raising the victim slew it over the stern, and prayed with these words: "Thou god, who hast manifested thyself on the borders of this land, whether the daughters born of the sea call thee Triton, the great sea-marvel, or Phorcys, or Nereus, be gracious, and grant the return home dear to our hearts."

[1601] He spake, and cut the victim's throat over the water and cast it from the stern. And the god rose up from the depths in form such as he really was. And as when a man trains a swift steed for the broad race-course, and runs along, grasping the bushy mane, while the steed follows obeying his master, and rears his neck aloft in his pride, and the gleaming bit rings loud as he champs it in his jaws from side to side; so the god, seizing hollow Argo's keel, guided her onward to the sea. And his body, from the crown of his head, round his back and waist as far as the belly, was wondrously like that of the blessed ones in form; but below his sides the tail of a sea monster lengthened far, forking to this side and that; and he smote the surface of the waves with the spines, which below parted into curving fins, like the horns of the new moon. And he guided Argo on until he sped her into the sea on her course; and quickly he plunged into the vast abyss; and the heroes shouted when they gazed with their eyes on that dread portent. There is the harbour of Argo and there are the signs of her stay, and altars to Poseidon and Triton; for during that day they tarried. But at dawn with sails outspread they sped on before the breath of the west wind, keeping the desert land on their right. And on the next morn they saw the headland and the recess of the sea, bending inward beyond the jutting headland. And straightway the west wind ceased, and there came the breeze of the clear south wind; and their hearts rejoiced at the sound it made. But when the sun sank and the star returned that bids the shepherd fold, which brings rest to wearied ploughmen, at that time the wind died down in the dark night; so they furled the sails and lowered the tall mast and vigorously plied their polished oars all night and through the day, and again when the next night came on. And rugged Carpathus far away welcomed them; and thence they were to cross to Crete, which rises in the sea above other islands.

[1638] And Talos, the man of bronze, as he broke off rocks from the hard cliff, stayed them from fastening hawsers to the shore, when they came to the roadstead of Dicté's haven. He was of the stock of bronze, of the men sprung from ash-trees, the last left among the sons of the gods; and the son of Cronos gave him to Europa to be the warder of Crete and to stride round the island

thrice a day with his feet of bronze. Now in all the rest of his body and limbs was he fashioned of bronze and invulnerable; but beneath the sinew by his ankle was a blood-red vein; and this, with its issues of life and death, was covered by a thin skin. So the heroes, though outworn with toil, quickly backed their ship from the land in sore dismay. And now far from Crete would they have been borne in wretched plight, distressed both by thirst and pain, had not Medea addressed them as they turned away: "Hearken to me. For I deem that I alone can subdue for you that man, whoever he be, even though his frame be of bronze throughout, unless his life too is everlasting. But be ready to keep your ship here beyond the cast of his stones, till he yield the victory to me."

[1659] Thus she spake; and they drew the ship out of range, resting on their oars, waiting to see what plan unlooked for she would bring to pass; and she, holding the fold of her purple robe over her cheeks on each side, mounted on the deck; and Aeson's son took her hand in his and guided her way along the thwarts. And with songs did she propitiate and invoke the Death- spirits, devourers of life, the swift hounds of Hades, who, hovering through all the air, swoop down on the living. Kneeling in supplication, thrice she called on them with songs, and thrice with prayers; and, shaping her soul to mischief, with her hostile glance she bewitched the eyes of Talos, the man of bronze; and her teeth gnashed bitter wrath against him, and she sent forth baneful phantoms in the frenzy of her rage.

[1673] Father Zeus, surely great wonder rises in my mind, seeing that dire destruction meets us not from disease and wounds alone, but lo! even from afar, may be, it tortures us! So Talos, for all his frame of bronze, yielded the victory to the might of Medea the sorceress. And as he was heaving massy rocks to stay them from reaching the haven, he grazed his ankle on a pointed crag; and the ichor gushed forth like melted lead; and not long thereafter did he stand towering on the jutting cliff. But even as some huge pine, high up on the mountains, which woodmen have left half hewn through by their sharp axes when they returned from the forest — at first it shivers in the wind by night, then at last snaps at the stump and crashes down; so Talos for a while stood on his tireless feet, swaying to and fro, when at last, all strengthless, fell with a mighty thud. For that night there in Crete the heroes lay; then, just as dawn was growing bright, they built a shrine to Minoan Athena, and drew water and went aboard, so that first of all they might by rowing pass beyond Salmone's height.

[1694] But straightway as they sped over the wide Cretan sea night scared them, that night which they name the Pall of Darkness; the stars pierced not that fatal night nor the beams of the moon, but black chaos descended from heaven, or haply some other darkness came, rising from the nethermost depths. And the heroes, whether they drifted in Hades or on the waters, knew not one whit; but they committed their return to the sea in helpless doubt whither it was bearing them. But Jason raised his hands and cried to Phoebus

with mighty voice, calling on him to save them; and the tears ran down in his distress; and often did he promise to bring countless offerings to Pytho, to Amyclae, and to Ortygia. And quickly, O son of Leto, swift to hear, didst thou come down from heaven to the Melantian rocks, which lie there in the sea. Then darting upon one of the twin peaks, thou raisedst aloft in thy right hand thy golden bow; and the bow flashed a dazzling gleam all round. And to their sight appeared a small island of the Sporades, over against the tiny isle Hippuris, and there they cast anchor and stayed; and straightway dawn arose and gave them light; and they made for Apollo a glorious abode in a shady wood, and a shady altar, calling on Phoebus the "Gleamer", because of the gleam far-seen; and that bare island they called Anaphe, for that Phoebus had revealed it to men sore bewildered. And they sacrificed all that men could provide for sacrifice on a desolate strand; wherefore when Medea's Phaeacian handmaids saw them pouring water for libations on the burning brands, they could no longer restrain laughter within their bosoms, for that ever they had seen oxen in plenty slain in the halls of Alcinous. And the heroes delighted in the jest and attacked them with taunting words; and merry railing and contention flung to and fro were kindled among them. And from that sport of the heroes such scoffs do the women fling at the men in that island whenever they propitiate with sacrifices Apollo the gleaming god, the warder of Anaphe.

[1731] But when they had loosed the hawsers thence in fair weather, then Euphemus bethought him of a dream of the night, reverencing the glorious son of Maia. For it seemed to him that the god-given clod of earth held in his palm close to his breast was being suckled by white streams of milk, and that from it, little though it was, grew a woman like a virgin; and he, overcome by strong desire, lay with her in love's embrace; and united with her he pitied her, as though she were a maiden whom he was feeding with his own milk; but she comforted him with gentle words:) "Daughter of Triton am I, dear friend, and nurse of thy children, no maiden; Triton and Libya are my parents. But restore me to the daughters of Nereus to dwell in the sea near Anaphe; I shall return again to the light of the sun, to prepare a home for thy descendants."

[1746] Of this he stored in his heart the memory, and declared it to Aeson's son; and Jason pondered a prophecy of the Far-Darter and lifted up his voice and said: "My friend, great and glorious renown has fallen to thy lot. For of this clod when thou hast cast it into the sea, the gods will make an island, where thy children's children shall dwell; for Triton gave this to thee as a stranger's gift from the Libyan mainland. None other of the immortals it was than he that gave thee this when he met thee."

[1755] Thus he spake; and Euphemus made not vain the answer of Aeson's son; but, cheered by the prophecy, he cast the clod into the depths. Therefrom rose up an island, Calliste, sacred nurse of the sons of Euphemus, who in former days dwelt in Sintian Lemnos, and from Lemnos were driven forth by Tyrrhenians and came to Sparta as suppliants; and when they left Sparta,

Theras, the goodly son of Autesion, brought them to the island Calliste, and from himself he gave it the name of Thera. But this befell after the days of Euphemus.

[1765] And thence they steadily left behind long leagues of sea and stayed on the beach of Aegina; and at once they contended in innocent strife about the fetching of water, who first should draw it and reach the ship. For both their need and the ceaseless breeze urged them on. There even to this day do the youths of the Myrmidons take up on their shoulders full- brimming jars, and with swift feet strive for victory in the race.

[1773] Be gracious, race of blessed chieftains! And may these songs year after year be sweeter to sing among men. For now have I come to the glorious end of your toils; for no adventure befell you as ye came home from Aegina, and no tempest of winds opposed you; but quietly did ye skirt the Cecropian land and Aulis inside of Euboea and the Opuntian cities of the Locrians, and gladly did ye step forth upon the beach of Pagasae.

The Greek Text



Ruins of a lecture hall on the site of the Library of Alexandria — according to the Suda, Apollonius was the Head of the Library of Alexandria, after being the student of the poet Callimachus.

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In this section of the eBook, readers can view the original Greek text of Apollonius' 'Argonautica'. You may wish to Bookmark this page for future reference.

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BOOK I.

ἀρχόμενος σέο, Φοῖβε, παλαιγενέων κλέα φωτῶν
μνήσομαι, οἳ Πόντοιο κατὰ στόμα καὶ διὰ πέτρας
Κυανέας βασιλῆος ἐφημοσύνη Πελίαο
χρύσειον μετὰ κῶας ἐύζυγον ἤλασαν Ἀργῶ.

5 τοῖην γὰρ Πελὶὺς φάτιν ἔκλυεν, ὥς μιν ὀπίσσω
μοῖρα μένει στυγερή, τοῦδ' ἀνέρος, ὄντιν' ἴδοιτο
δημόθεν οἰοπέδιλον, ὑπ' ἐννεσίησι δαμῆναι.
δηρὸν δ' οὐ μετέπειτα τήην κατὰ βάζιν Ἰήσων
χειμερίοιο ῥέεθρα κιῶν διὰ ποσσὶν Ἀναύρου
10 ἄλλο μὲν ἐξεσάωσεν ὑπ' ἰλύος, ἄλλο δ' ἔνερθεν
κάλλιπεν αὔθι πέδιλον ἐνισχόμενον προχοῇσιν.

ἴκετο δ' ἐς Πελίην αὐτοσχεδὸν ἀντιβολήσων
εἰλαπίνης, ἣν πατρὶ Ποσειδάωνι καὶ ἄλλοις
ῥέζε θεοῖς, Ἥρης δὲ Πελασγίδος οὐκ ἀλέγιζεν.

15 αἶψα δὲ τόνγ' ἐσιδὼν ἐφράσσατο, καὶ οἱ ἄεθλον
ἔντυε ναυτιλίας πολυκηδέος, ὄφρ' ἐνὶ πόντῳ
ἡὲ καὶ ἄλλοδαποῖσι μετ' ἀνδράσι νόστον ὀλέσσει.
νῆα μὲν οὖν οἱ πρόσθεν ἐπικλείουσιν ἄοιδοι
Ἄργον Ἀθηναῖς καμέειν ὑποθημοσύνησιν.

20 νῦν δ' ἂν ἐγὼ γενεὴν τε καὶ οὖνομα μυθησαίμην
ἡρώων, δολιχῆς τε πόρους ἁλός, ὅσσα τ' ἔρεξαν
πλαζόμενοι· Μοῦσαι δ' ὑποφήτορες εἶεν ἄοιδῆς.
πρῶτά νυν Ὀρφῆος μνησώμεθα, τὸν ῥά ποτ' αὐτὴ
Καλλιόπη Θρήικι φατίζεται εὐνηθεῖσα

25 Οἰάγρῳ σκοπιῆς Πιμπληίδος ἄγχι τεκέσθαι
αὐτὰρ τόνγ' ἐνέπουσιν ἀτειρέας οὔρεσι πέτρας
θέλξαι ἄοιδάων ἐνοπῇ ποταμῶν τε ῥέεθρα.
φηγοὶ δ' ἀγριάδες, κείνης ἔτι σήματα μολπῆς,
ἀκτῆς Θρηκικῆς Ζώνης ἐπὶ τηλεθόωσαι

30 ἐξείης στιχόωσιν ἐπήτριμοι, ἃς ὄγ' ἐπιπρὸ
θελγομένας φόρμιγγι κατήγαγε Πιερὶήθεν.
Ὀρφέα μὲν δὴ τοῖον ἑὼν ἐπαρωγὸν ἀέθλων
Αἰσονίδης Χείρωνος ἐφημοσύνησι πιθήσας
δέξατο, Πιερὶὴ Βιστωνίδι κοιρανέοντα.

35 ἤλυθε δ' Ἀστερίων αὐτοσχεδόν, ὃν ῥα Κομήτης
γεínaτο δινήεντος ἐφ' ὕδασιν Ἀπιδανοῖο,
Πειρεσιᾶς ὄρεος Φυλληίου ἀγχόθι ναίων,
ἐνθα μὲν Ἀπιδανός τε μέγας καὶ δῖος Ἐνipeύς
ἄμφω συμφορέονται, ἀπόπροθεν εἰς ἓν ἰόντες.

40 Λάρισαν δ' ἐπὶ τοῖσι λιπὼν Πολύφημος ἴκανε
Εἰλατίδης, ὃς πρὶν μὲν ἐρισθενέων Λαπιθάων,

ὁππότε Κενταύροις Λαπίθαι ἐπὶ θωρήσσοντο,
ὁπλότερος πολέμιζε: τότε αὖ βαρύθεσκέ οἱ ἦδη
γυῖα, μένεν δ' ἔτι θυμὸς ἀρήιος, ὥς τὸ πάρος περ.
45 οὐδὲ μὲν Ἴφικλος Φυλάκη ἐνὶ δηρὸν ἔλειπτο,
μήτρως Αἰσονίδαο: κασιγνήτην γὰρ ὅπυιεν
Αἴσων Ἀλκιμέδην Φυλακηίδα: τῆς μιν ἀνώγει
πηροσύνη καὶ κῆδος ἐνικρινθῆναι ὁμίλῳ.
οὐδὲ Φεραῖς Ἄδμητος ἐνρρήνεσσιν ἀνάσσων
50 μίμινεν ὑπὸ σκοπιῇν ὄρεος Χαλκωδονίοιο.
οὐδ' Ἀλόπη μίμινον πολυλήιοι Ἑρμείαο
υἱέες εὖ δεδαῶτε δόλους, Ἑρυντος καὶ Ἐχίων,
τοῖσι δ' ἐπὶ τρίτατος γνωτὸς κίε νισσομένοισιν
Αἰθαλίδης: καὶ τὸν μὲν ἐπ' Ἀμφρυσσοῖο ῥοῆσιν
55 Μυρμιδόνος κούρη Φθιάς τέκεν Εὐπολέμεια:
τῷ δ' αὐτ' ἐκγεγάτην Μενετηίδος Ἀντιανείρης.
ἦλυθε δ' ἀφνειὴν προλιπὼν Γυρτῶνα Κόρωνος
Καινείδης, ἐσθλὸς μὲν, ἐοῦ δ' οὐ πατὴρ ἀμείνων.
Καινέα γὰρ ζῶόν περ ἔτι κλείουσιν αἰοῖδοι
60 Κενταύροισιν ὀλέσθαι, ὅτε σφέας οἶος ἀπ' ἄλλων
ἦλασ' ἀριστήων: οἱ δ' ἔμπαλιν ὀρμηθέντες
οὔτε μιν ἐγκλίνειν προτέρῳ σθένον, οὔτε δαΐζαι:
ἀλλ' ἄρρηκτος ἄκαμπτος ἐδύσετο νεῖοθι γαίης,
θεινόμενος στιβαρῇσι καταῖγδην ἐλάτῃσιν.
65 ἦλυθε δ' αὖ Μόψος Τιταρήσιος, ὃν περὶ πάντων
Λητοΐδης ἐδίδαξε θεοπροπίας οἰωνῶν:
ἦδὲ καὶ Εὐρυδάμας Κτιμένου πάις: ἄγχι δὲ λίμνης
Ξυνιάδος Κτιμένην Δολοπηίδα ναιετάασκεν.
καὶ μὴν Ἄκτωρ υἱὰ Μενoitιον ἐξ Ὀπότεντος
70 ὥρσεν, ἀριστήεσσι σὺν ἀνδράσιν ὄφρα νέοιτο.
εἵπετο δ' Εὐρυτίων τε καὶ Ἀλκείης Ἑρυβώτης,
υἱὲς ὁ μὲν Τελέοντος, ὁ δ' Ἴρου Ἀκτορίδαο:
ἦτοι ὁ μὲν Τελέοντος ἐνκλειῆς Ἑρυβώτης,
Ἴρου δ' Εὐρυτίων. σὺν καὶ τρίτος ἦεν Οἰλέυς,
75 ἔξοχος ἠγορέην καὶ ἐπαΐζαι μετόπισθεν
εὖ δεδαῶς δῆοισιν, ὅτε κλίνωσι φάλαγγας.
αὐτὰρ ἀπ' Εὐβοίης Κάνθος κίε, τὸν ῥα Κάνθηος
πέμπεν Ἀβαντιάδης λεληημένον: οὐ μὲν ἔμελλεν
νοστήσειν Κήρινθον ὑπότροπος. αἶσα γὰρ ἦεν
80 αὐτὸν ὁμῶς Μόψον τε δαήμονα μαντοσυνάων
πλαγχθέντας Λιβύης ἐνὶ πείρασι δηωθῆναι,
ὥς οὐκ ἀνθρώποισι κακὸν μήκιστον ἐπαυρεῖν,
ὁππότε κάκεινους Λιβύῃ ἐνὶ ταρχύσαντο,
τόσσον ἐκάς Κόλχων, ὅσσον τέ περ ἠελίοιο
85 μεσσηγὺς δύσιές τε καὶ ἀντολαὶ εἰσορόωνται.

τῷ δ' ἄρ' ἐπὶ Κλυτίος τε καὶ Ἴφίτος ἠγερέθοντο,
Οἰχαλῆς ἐπίουροι, ἀπηνέος Εὐρύτου υἱές,
Εὐρύτου, ᾧ πόρε τόξον Ἐκηβόλος· οὐδ' ἀπόνητο
δωτίνης· αὐτῷ γὰρ ἐκὼν ἐρίδηνε δοτῆρι.

90 τοῖσι δ' ἐπ' Αἰακίδαι μετεκίαθον· οὐ μὲν ἅμ' ἄμφω,
οὐδ' ὁμόθεν· νόσφιν γὰρ ἀλευάμενοι κατένασθεν
Αἰγίνης, ὅτε Φῶκον ἀδελφεὸν ἐξενάριξαν
ἀφραδίῃ. Τελαμὼν μὲν ἐν Ἀτθίδι νάσσατο νήσῳ·
Πηλεὺς δὲ Φθίῃ ἐνὶ δώματα ναῖε λιασθείς.

95 τοῖς δ' ἐπὶ Κεκροπήθεν ἀρήιος ἦλυθε Βούτης,
παῖς ἀγαθοῦ Τελέοντος, ἐμμελῆς τε Φάληρος.
Ἄλκων μιν προέηκε πατὴρ ἐός· οὐ μὲν ἔτ' ἄλλους
γῆραος υἱὰς ἔχεν βιότοιό τε κηδεμονῆας.
ἀλλὰ ἐ τηλύγετόν περ ὁμῶς καὶ μόνον ἐόντα

100 πέμπεν, ἵνα θρασέεσσι μεταπρέποι ἠρώεσσιν.
Θησέα δ', ὃς περὶ πάντας Ἐρεχθεΐδας ἐκέκαστο,
Ταιναρίην αἰδηλὸς ὑπὸ χθόνα δεσμὸς ἔρκεν,
Πειρίθῳ ἐσπόμενον κοινὴν ὁδόν· ἥ τέ κεν ἄμφω
ῥήτερον καμάτοιο τέλος πάντεσσιν ἔθεντο.

105 Τίφυς δ' Ἀγνιάδης Σιφαέα κάλλιπε δῆμον
Θεσπιέων, ἐσθλὸς μὲν ὀρινόμενον προδαῖναι
κῦμ' ἄλδος εὐρείης, ἐσθλὸς δ' ἀνέμοιο θυέλλας
καὶ πλόον ἠελίῳ τε καὶ ἀστέρι τεκμήρασθαι.
αὐτὴ μιν Τριτωνὶς ἀριστήων ἐς ὄμιλον

110 ὥρσεν Ἀθηναίῃ, μετὰ δ' ἦλυθεν ἐλδομένοισιν.
αὐτὴ γὰρ καὶ νῆα θοὴν κάμε· σὺν δέ οἱ Ἄργος
τεῦξεν Ἀρεστορίδης κείνης ὑποθημοσύνησιν.
τῷ καὶ πασάων προφερεστάτῃ ἔπλετο νηῶν,
ὄσσαι ὑπ' εἰρεσίῃσιν ἐπειρήσαντο θαλάσσης.

115 Φλίας δ' αὖτ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν Ἀραιθυρέηθεν ἴκανεν,
ἐνθ' ἀφνειὸς ἔναιε Διωνύσοιο ἔκκητι,
πατρὸς ἐοῦ, πηγῇσιν ἐφέστιος Ἀσωποῖο.

Ἀργόθεν αὖ Ταλαὸς καὶ Ἀρήιος, υἱὲ Βίαντος,
ἦλυθον ἰφθιμός τε Λεῶδοκος, οὓς τέκε Πηρῶ
120 Νηληΐς· τῆς δ' ἄμφι δῦν ἑμόγησε βαρεῖαν
Αἰολίδης σταθμοῖσιν ἐν Ἰφίκλοιο Μελάμπους.
οὐδὲ μὲν οὐδὲ βίην κρατερόφρονος Ἡρακλῆος
πευθόμεθ' Αἰσονίδαο λιλαιομένου ἀθερίζαι.

ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ αἶε βάξιν ἀγειρομένων ἡρώων,
125 νεῖον ἅπ' Ἀρκαδίας Λυρκήιον Ἄργος ἀμείψας
τὴν ὁδόν, ἥ ζῶν φέρε κάπριον, ὃς ῥ' ἐνὶ βήσσης
φέρβετο Λαμπεΐης, Ἐρυμάνθιον ἅμ' μέγα τίφος,
τὸν μὲν ἐνὶ πρώτῃσι Μυκηναίων ἀγορῇσιν
δεσμοῖς ἰλλόμενον μεγάλων ἀπεθήκατο νώτων·

130 αὐτὸς δ' ἦ ἰότητι παρὲκ νόον Εὐρυσθήος
ὠρμήθη· σὺν καὶ οἱ Ὑλας κίεν, ἐσθλὸς ὁπάων,
πρωθήβης, ἰὼν τε φορεὺς φύλακός τε βιοῖο.
τῷ δ' ἐπὶ δὴ θείοιο κίεν Δαναοῖο γενέθλη,
Ναῦπλιος, ἣ γὰρ ἔην Κλυτονήου Ναυβολίδαο·
135 Ναύβολος αὖ Λέρνου· Λέρνον γε μὲν ἴδμεν ἐόντα
Προΐτου Ναυπλιάδαο· Ποσειδάωνι δὲ κούρη.
πρίν ποτ' Ἀμυμώνη Δαναῖς τέκεν εὐνηθεῖσα
Ναῦπλιον, ὃς περὶ πάντας ἐκαίνυτο ναυτιλίησιν.
Ἵδμων δ' ὑστάτιος μετεκίαθεν, ὅσσοι ἔναιον
140 Ἄργος, ἐπεὶ δεδαῶς τὸν ἐὸν μόρον οἰωνοῖσιν
ἦιε, μὴ οἱ δῆμος ἐκλείης ἀγάσαιτο.
οὐ μὲν ὄγ' ἦεν Ἀβαντος ἐτήτυμον, ἀλλὰ μιν αὐτὸς
γεῖνατο κυδαλίμοις ἐναρίθμιον Αἰολίδῃσιν
Λητοΐδης· αὐτὸς δὲ θεοπροπίας ἐδίδαξεν
145 οἰωνούς τ' ἀλέγειν ἠδ' ἔμπυρα σήματ' ἰδέσθαι.
καὶ μὴν Αἰτωλὶς κρατερὸν Πολυδεύκεα Λήδη
Κάστορά τ' ὠκυπόδων ὥρσεν δεδαημένον ἵππων
Σπάρτηθεν· τοὺς δ' ἦγε δόμοις ἐνὶ Τυνδαρέοιο
τηλυγέτους ὠδῖνι μῆ τέκεν· οὐδ' ἀπίθησεν
150 νισσομένοις· Ζηνὸς γὰρ ἐπάξια μήδετο λέκτρων.
οἳ τ' Ἀφαρητιάδαι Λυγκεὺς καὶ ὑπέρβιος Ἴδας
Ἀρήνηθεν ἔβαν, μεγάλη περιθαρσέες ἀλκῇ
ἀμφοτέροι· Λυγκεὺς δὲ καὶ ὀξυτάτοις ἐκέκαστο
ὄμμασιν, εἰ ἐτεόν γε πέλει κλέος, ἀνέρα κεῖνον
155 ῥηιδίως καὶ νέρθε κατὰ χθονὸς ἀνγάζεσθαι.
σὺν δὲ Περικλύμενος Νηλήϊος ὥρτο νέεσθαι,
πρεσβύτατος παίδων, ὅσσοι Πύλῳ ἐξεγένοντο
Νηλῆος θείοιο· Ποσειδάων δέ οἱ ἀλκὴν
δῶκεν ἀπειρεσίην ἠδ' ὅττι κεν ἀρήσαιοι
160 μαρνάμενος, τὸ πέλεσθαι ἐνὶ ξυνοχῇ πολέμοιο.
καὶ μὴν Ἀμφιδάμας Κηφεὺς τ' ἴσαν Ἀρκαδίηθεν,
οἱ Τεγέην καὶ κλῆρον Ἀφειδάντειον ἔναιον,
υἱὲ δ' ὧν Ἀλεοῦ· τρίτατός γε μὲν ἔσπετ' ἰοῦσιν
Ἀγκαῖος, τὸν μὲν ῥα πατὴρ Λυκόοργος ἔπεμπε,
165 τῶν ἄμφω γνωτὸς προγενέστερος. ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν ἦδη
γηράσκοντ' Ἀλεὸν λίπετ' ἄμ πόλιν ὄφρα κομίζοι,
παῖδα δ' ἐὸν σφετέροισι κασιγνήτοισιν ὅπασσεν.
βῆ δ' ὄγε Μαιναλίνης ἄρκτου δέρος, ἀμφίτομόν τε
δεξιτερῇ πάλλων πέλεκυν μέγαν. ἔντεα γάρ οἱ
170 πατροπάτωρ Ἀλεὸς μυχάτῃ ἐνέκρυσσε καλιῇ,
αἷ κέν πως ἔτι καὶ τὸν ἐρητύσειε νέεσθαι.
βῆ δὲ καὶ Αὐγείης, ὃν δὴ φάτις Ἡελίοιο
ἔμμεναι· Ἠλείοισι δ' ὄγ' ἀνδράσιν ἐμβασίλευεν,

ὄλβφ κυδιών: μέγα δ' ἴετο Κολχίδα γαῖαν
 175 αὐτόγ' Αἰήτην ιδέειν σημάντορα Κόλχων.
 Ἀστέριος δὲ καὶ Ἀμφίων Ὑπερασίου νῆες
 Πελλήνης ἀφίκανον Ἀχαιίδος, ἣν ποτε Πέλλης
 πατροπάτωρ ἐπόλισσεν ἐπ' ὀφρύσιν Αἰγιαλοῖο.
 Ταίναρον αὐτ' ἐπὶ τοῖσι λιπὼν Εὐφημος ἴκανε,
 180 τὸν ῥα Ποσειδάωνι ποδωκηέστατον ἄλλων
 Εὐρώπῃ Υἱτυοῖο μεγασθενέος τέκε κούρη.
 κεῖνος ἀνὴρ καὶ πόντου ἐπὶ γλαυκοῖο θέεσκεν
 οἶδατος, οὐδὲ θοοὺς βάπτεν πόδας, ἀλλ' ὅσον ἄκροις
 ἴχνεσι τεγγόμενος διερῇ πεφόρητο κελεύθῳ.
 185 καὶ δ' ἄλλω δύο παῖδε Ποσειδάωνος ἴκοντο:
 ἦτοι ὁ μὲν πτολίεθρον ἀγανοῦ Μιλήτιο
 νοσφισθεὶς Ἐργῖνος, ὁ δ' Ἴμβρασίης ἔδος Ἥρης,
 παρθενίην, Ἀγκαῖος ὑπέρβιος: ἴστορε δ' ἄμφω
 ἡμὲν ναυτιλίας ἡδ' ἄρεος εὐχετόωντο.
 190 Οἰνεΐδης δ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ἀφορμηθεὶς Καλυδῶνος
 ἀλκῆεις Μελέαγρος ἀνήλυθε, Λαοκόων τε,
 Λαοκόων Οἰνῆος ἀδελφεός, οὐ μὲν ἱῆς γε
 μητέρος: ἀλλὰ ἐθῆσσα γυνὴ τέκε: τὸν μὲν ἄρ' Οἰνεὺς
 ἦδη γηραλέον κοσμήτορα παιδὸς ἴαλλεν:
 195 ὧδ' ἔτι κουρίζων περιθαρσέα δύνεν ὄμιλον
 ἡρώων. τοῦ δ' οὕτιν' ὑπέρτερον ἄλλον οἶω,
 νόσφιν γ' Ἡρακλῆος, ἐπελθέμεν, εἴ κ' ἔτι μοῦνον
 αὐθι μένων λυκάβαντα μετετράφη Αἰτωλοῖσιν.
 καὶ μὴν οἱ μήτρως αὐτὴν ὁδόν, εὖ μὲν ἄκοντι,
 200 εὖ δὲ καὶ ἐν σταδίῃ δεδαημένος ἀντιφέρεσθαι,
 Θεστιάδης Ἴφικλος ἐφωμάρτησε κιόντι.
 σὺν δὲ Παλαιμόνιος Λέρνου πάις Ὠλενίοιο,
 Λέρνου ἐπὶ κλησιν, γενεὴν γε μὲν Ἠφαιστοιο:
 τούνεκ' ἦν πόδα σιφλός: ἀτὰρ δέμας οὐ κέ τις ἔτλη
 205 ἡγορέην τ' ὀνόσασθαι, ὃ καὶ μεταρίθμιος ἦεν
 πᾶσιν ἀριστήεσσιν, Ἴησони κῦδος ἀέζων.
 ἐκ δ' ἄρα Φωκῆων κίεν Ἴφίτος Ὀρνυτίδαο
 Ναυβόλου ἐκγεγῶς: ξεῖνος δὲ οἱ ἔσκε πάροιθεν,
 ἦμος ἔβη Πυθῶδε θεοπροπίας ἐρεείνων
 210 ναυτιλίας: τόθι γάρ μιν ἐοῖς ὑπέδεκτο δόμοισιν.
 Ζήτης αὖ Κάλαις τε Βορήιοι νῆες ἴκοντο,
 οὓς ποτ' Ἐρεχθίδος Βορὴν τέκεν Ὠρεῖθνια
 ἐσχατιῇ Θρήκης δυσχειμέρου: ἔνθ' ἄρα τήγγε
 Θρηίκιος Βορέης ἀνέρέψατο Κεκροπίθην
 215 Ἴλισσοῦ προπάροιθε χορῶ ἐνὶ δινεύουσιν.
 καὶ μιν ἄγων ἔκαθεν, Σαρπηδονίην ὅθι πέτρην
 κλείουσιν, ποταμοῖο παρὰ ῥόον Ἐργίνοιο,

λυγαίοις ἐδάμασσε περὶ νεφέεσσι καλύψας.
 τῷ μὲν ἐπ' ἀκροτάτοισι ποδῶν ἐκάτερθεν ἐρεμνὰς
 220 σεῖον ἀειρομένῳ πτέρυγας, μέγα θάμβος ἰδέσθαι,
 χρυσεαῖς φολίδεσσι διαυγέας· ἀμφὶ δὲ νώτοις
 κράατος ἐξ ὑπάτιοι καὶ αὐχένος ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα
 κυάνεαι δονέοντο μετὰ πνοιῇσιν ἔθειραι.
 οὐδὲ μὲν οὐδ' αὐτοῖο πάις μενέαιεν Ἴακστος
 225 ἰφθίμου Πελῖαιο δόμοις ἐνὶ πατρὸς ἐῆος
 μιμνάζειν, Ἴαργος τε θεᾶς ὑποεργὸς Ἀθήνης·
 ἄλλ' ἄρα καὶ τῷ μέλλον ἐνικρινθῆναι ὁμίλῳ.
 τόσσοι ἄρ' Αἰσονίδῃ συμμήστορες ἠγερέθοντο.
 τοὺς μὲν ἀριστῆας Μινύας περιναιετάοντες
 230 κίκλησκον μάλα πάντας, ἐπεὶ Μινύαο θυγατρῶν
 οἱ πλεῖστοι καὶ ἄριστοι ἀφ' αἵματος εὐχετόωντο
 ἔμμεναι· ὧς δὲ καὶ αὐτὸν Ἰήσωνα γείνατο μήτηρ
 Ἀλκιμέδῃ, Κλυμένης Μινυηίδος ἐκγεγαυῖα.
 αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ δμῶεσσιν ἐπαρτέα πάντ' ἐτέτυκτο,
 235 ὅσσα περ ἐντύνονται ἐπαρτέες ἔνδοθι νῆες,
 εὐτ' ἂν ἄγῃ χρέος ἄνδρας ὑπεῖρ ἅλα ναυτίλλεσθαι,
 δὴ τότε ἴσαν μετὰ νῆα δι' ἄστεος, ἔνθα περ ἄκται
 κλείονται Παγασαὶ Μαγνήτιδες· ἀμφὶ δὲ λαῶν
 πληθὺς σπερχομένων ἄμυδις θέεν· οἱ δὲ φαεινοὶ
 240 ἀστέρες ὧς νεφέεσσι μετέπρεπον· ὧδε δ' ἕκαστος
 ἔννεπεν εἰσορόων σὺν τεύχεσιν αἰσσοντας·
 'Ζεῦ ἄνα, τίς Πελῖαιο νόος; πόθι τόσσον ὅμιλον
 ἡρώων γαίης Παναχαΐδος ἔκτοθι βάλλει;
 αὐτῇμάρ κε δόμους ὀλοῶ πυρὶ δηώσειαν
 245 Αἰήτεω, ὅτε μὴ σφιν ἐκὼν δέρος ἐγγυαλίζῃ.
 ἄλλ' οὐ φυκτὰ κέλευθα, πόνος δ' ἄπρηκτος ἰοῦσιν.'
 ὧς φάσαν ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα κατὰ πτόλιν· αἱ δὲ γυναιῖκες
 πολλὰ μάλ' ἀθανάτοισιν ἐς αἰθέρα χεῖρας ἄειρον,
 εὐχόμεναι νόστοιο τέλος θυμηδὲς ὀπάσσαι.
 250 ἄλλῃ δ' εἰς ἐτέρην ὀλοφύρετο δακρυχέουσα·
 'δειλὴ Ἀλκιμέδῃ, καὶ σοὶ κακὸν ὀφέ περ ἔμπης
 ἦλυθεν, οὐδ' ἐτέλεσσας ἐπ' ἀγλαΐῃ βιότιο.
 Αἶσων αὖ μέγα δὴ τι δυσάμμορος· ἦ τέ οἱ ἦεν
 βέλτερον, εἰ τὸ πάροιθεν ἐνὶ κτερέεσσιν ἐλυσθεῖς
 255 νειόθι γαίης κεῖτο, κακῶν ἔτι νῆις ἀέθλων.
 ὧς ὄφελεν καὶ Φρίξον, ὅτ' ὦλετο παρθένος Ἑλλή,
 κῦμα μέλαν κριῶ ἅμ' ἐπικλύσαι· ἀλλὰ καὶ αὐδὴν
 ἀνδρομέην προέηκε κακὸν τέρας, ὧς κεν ἀνίας
 Ἀλκιμέδῃ μετόπισθε καὶ ἄλγεα μυρία θείῃ.'
 260 αἱ μὲν ἄρ' ὧς ἀγόρευον ἐπὶ προμολῇσι κιόντων.
 ἦδη δὲ δμῶές τε πολεῖς δμῳαὶ τ' ἀγέροντο·

μήτηρ δ' ἄμφ' αὐτὸν βεβολημένη. ὅξυ δ' ἐκάστην
 δύνεν ἄχος· σὺν δέ σφι πατὴρ ὀλοῶ ὑπὸ γῆραι
 ἐντυπὰς ἐν λεχέεσσι καλυψάμενος γοάασκεν.
 265 αὐτὰρ ὁ τῶν μὲν ἔπειτα κατεπρήνυνεν ἀνίας
 θαρσύνων, δμῶεσσι δ' ἄρηια τεύχε' αἰείρειν
 πέφραδεν· οἱ δέ τε σῖγα κατηφέες ἡείροντο.
 μήτηρ δ' ὥς τὰ πρῶτ' ἐπεχεύατο πήγεε παιδί,
 ὥς ἔχετο κλαίουσ' ἀδινώτερον, ἥυτε κούρη
 270 οἰόθεν ἀσπασίως πολιὴν τροφὸν ἀμφιπεσοῦσα
 μύρεται, ἧ οὐκ εἰσὶν ἔτ' ἄλλοι κηδεμονῆες,
 ἀλλ' ὑπὸ μητρυῇ βίοτον βαρὺν ἡγηλάζει·
 καὶ ἐ νέον πολέεσσιν ὀνειδέσιν ἐστυφέλιξεν,
 τῇ δέ τ' ὀδυρομένη δέδεται κέαρ ἔνδοθεν ἄτη,
 275 οὐδ' ἔχει ἐκφλύζει τόσσον γόνον, ὅσσον ὀρεχθεῖ·
 ὥς ἀδινὸν κλαίεσκεν ἐὼν παῖδ' ἀγκὰς ἔχουσα
 Ἀλκιμέδη, καὶ τοῖον ἔπος φάτο κηδοσύνησιν·
 'αἴθ' ὄφελον κεῖν' ἦμαρ, ὅτ' ἐξειπόντος ἄκουσα
 δειλὴ ἐγὼ Πελῖαο κακὴν βασιλῆος ἐφετμήν,
 280 αὐτίκ' ἀπὸ ψυχὴν μεθέμεν, κηδέων τε λαθέσθαι,
 ὄφρ' αὐτός με τεῖῃσι φίλαις ταρχύσαιο χερσίν,
 τέκνον ἐμόν· τὸ γὰρ οἶον ἔην ἔτι λοιπὸν ἐέλδωρ
 ἐκ σέθεν, ἄλλα δὲ πάντα πάλοι θρεπτήρια πέσσω.
 νῦν γε μὲν ἢ τὸ πάροιθεν Ἀχαιιάδεσσιν ἀγητὴ
 285 δμοῖς ὅπως κενεοῖσι λελείψομαι ἐν μεγάροισιν,
 σεῖο πόθω μινύθουσα δυσάμμορος, ᾧ ἐπὶ πολλῇν
 ἀγλατῆν καὶ κῦδος ἔχον πάρος, ᾧ ἐπὶ μούνῳ
 μίτρην πρῶτον ἔλυσα καὶ ὕστατον. ἔξοχα γάρ μοι
 Εἰλείθυια θεὰ πολέος ἐμέγηρε τόκοιο.
 290 ᾧ μοι ἐμῆς ἄτης· τὸ μὲν οὐδ' ὅσον, οὐδ' ἐν ὀνείρῳ
 ὠισάμην, εἰ Φρίξος ἐμοὶ κακὸν ἔσσετ' ἀλύξας·'
 ὥς ἦγε στενάχουσα κινύρετο· ταὶ δὲ γυναικες
 ἀμρίπολοι γοάασκον ἐπισταδόν· αὐτὰρ ὁ τήγγε
 μειλίχοις ἐπέεσσι παρηγορέων προσέειπεν·
 295 'μή μοι λευγαλέας ἐνιβάλλεο, μήτερ, ἀνίας
 ὦδε λίην, ἐπεὶ οὐ μὲν ἐρητύσεις κακότητος
 δάκρυσιν, ἀλλ' ἔτι κεν καὶ ἐπ' ἄλγεσιν ἄλγος ἄροιο.
 πήματα γάρ τ' αἰδήλα θεοὶ θνητοῖσι φέμουσιν,
 τῶν μοῖραν κατὰ θυμὸν ἀνιάζουσά περ ἔμπης
 300 τλήθῃ φέρειν· θάρσει δὲ συνημοσύνησιν Ἀθήνης,
 ἥδὲ θεοπροπίοισιν, ἐπεὶ μάλα δεξιὰ Φοῖβος
 ἔχρη, ἀτὰρ μετέπειτά γ' ἀριστῆων ἐπαρωγῇ.
 ἀλλὰ σὺ μὲν νῦν αὖθι μετ' ἀμφιπόλοισιν ἐκηλος
 μίμνε δόμοις, μηδ' ὄρνις ἀεικελὴ πέλε νηί·
 305 κεῖσε δ' ὁμαρτήσουσιν ἔται δμῶές τε κιόντι.'

ἦ, καὶ ὁ μὲν προτέρωσσε δόμων ἐξῶρτο νέεσθαι.
 οἷος δ' ἐκ νηοῖο θυώδεος εἴσιν Ἀπόλλων
 δῆλον ἀν' ἡγαθέην, ἥ ἐ Κλάρων, ἥ ὄγε Πυθώ,
 ἥ Αὐκίην εὐρεῖαν, ἐπὶ Ξάνθοιο ῥοῇσιν,
 310 τοῖος ἀνὰ πληθὺν δήμου κίεν· ὥρτο δ' αὐτὴ
 κεκλομένων ἄμυδις. τῷ δὲ ζύμβλητο γεραῖη
 Ἰφιάς Ἀρτέμιδος πολινόχου ἀρήτειρα,
 καὶ μιν δεξιτερῆς χειρὸς κύσεν, οὐδέ τι φάσθαι
 ἔμπης ἰεμένη δύνατο, προθέοντος ὁμίλου·
 315 ἀλλ' ἡ μὲν λίπετ' αὐθι παρακλιδόν, οἷα γεραῖη
 ὀπλοτέρων, ὁ δὲ πολλὸν ἀποπλαγχθεὶς ἐλιάσθη.
 αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ ῥα πόληος ἐνδμήτους λίπ' ἀγυῖας,
 ἀκτὴν δ' ἵκανεν Παγασηίδα, τῇ μιν ἐταῖροι
 δειδέχατ', Ἀργῶη ἄμυδις παρὰ νηὶ μένοντες.
 320 στῇ δ' ἄρ' ἐπὶ προμολῆς· οἱ δ' ἀντίοι ἠγερέθοντο.
 ἐς δ' ἐνόησαν Ἄκαστον ὁμῶς Ἄργον τε πόληος
 νόσφι καταβλώσκοντας, ἐθάμβησαν δ' ἐσιδόντες
 πασσυδίῃ Πελῖαιο παρὲκ νόον ἰθύοντας.
 δέρμα δ' ὁ μὲν ταύροιο ποδηνεκὲς ἀμφέχετ' ὤμους
 325 Ἄργος Ἀρεστορίδης λάχνη μέλαν· αὐτὰρ ὁ καλὴν
 δίπλακα, τὴν οἱ ὅπασσε κασιγνήτη Πελόπεια.
 ἀλλ' ἔμπης τῷ μὲν τε διεξερέεσθαι ἕκαστα
 ἔσχετο· τοὺς δ' ἀγορήνδε συνεδριάσθαι ἄνωγεν.
 αὐτοῦ δ' ἰλλομένοις ἐπὶ λαΐφεισιν, ἡδὲ καὶ ἰστῷ
 330 κεκλιμένῳ μάλα πάντες ἐπισχερῶ ἐδριόωντο.
 τοῖσιν δ' Αἴσονος υἱὸς εὐφρονέων μετέειπεν·
 'ἄλλα μὲν ὅσσα τε νηὶ ἐφοπλίσσασθαι ἔοικεν
 — πάντα γὰρ εὖ κατὰ κόσμον — ἐπαρτέα κεῖται ἰοῦσιν.
 τῷ οὐκ ἂν δηναῖον ἐχοίμεθα τοῖο ἔκητι
 335 ναυτιλίας, ὅτε μοῦνον ἐπιπνεύσουσιν αἴηται.
 ἀλλά, φίλοι, — ξυνὸς γὰρ ἐς Ἑλλάδα νόστος ὀπίσσω,
 ξυναὶ δ' ἅμμι πέλονται ἐς Αἰήταο κέλευθοι —
 τούνεκα νῦν τὸν ἄριστον ἀφειδήσαντες ἔλεσθε
 ὄρχαμον ἡμείων, ᾧ κεν τὰ ἕκαστα μέλοιτο,
 340 νεῖκεα συνθεσίας τε μετὰ ξείνοισι βαλέεσθαι.'
 ὧς φάτο· πάπτηναν δὲ νέοι θρασὺν Ἡρακλῆα
 ἥμενον ἐν μέσσοισι· μῆ δέ ἐ πάντες αὐτῇ
 σημαίνειν ἐπέτελλον· ὁ δ' αὐτόθεν, ἔνθα περ ἦστο,
 δεξιτερὴν ἀνὰ χεῖρα τανύσσατο φώνησέν τε·
 345 'μήτις ἐμοὶ τόδε κῦδος ὀπαζέτω. οὐ γὰρ ἔγωγε
 πείσομαι· ὥστε καὶ ἄλλον ἀναστήσεσθαι ἐρύξω.
 αὐτός, ὅτις ξυνάγειρε, καὶ ἀρχεῦοι ὁμάδοιο.'
 ἦ ῥα μέγα φρονέων, ἐπὶ δ' ἦνεον, ὥς ἐκέλευεν
 Ἡρακλῆς· ἀνὰ δ' αὐτὸς ἀρήιος ὤρνυτ' Ἴησων

350 γηθόσυνος, καὶ τοῖα λιλαιομένοις ἀγόρευεν·
 ‘εἰ μὲν δὴ μοι κῦδος ἐπιτρωπᾶτε μέλεσθαι,
 μηκέτ’ ἔπειθ’, ὥς καὶ πρίν, ἐρητύοιτο κέλευθα.
 νῦν γε μὲν ἤδη Φοῖβον ἀρεσσάμενοι θυέεσσιν
 δαῖτ’ ἐντυνόμεσθα παρασχεδόν. ὄφρα δ’ ἴωσιν
 355 δμῶες ἐμοὶ σταθμῶν σημάντορες, οἷσι μέμνηεν
 δεῦρο βόας ἀγέληθεν ἐν κρίναντας ἐλάσσαι,
 τόφρα κε νῆ’ ἐρύσαιμεν ἔσω ἄλός, ὅπλα δὲ πάντα
 ἐνθήμενοι πεπάλαχθε κατὰ κληῖδας ἐρετμά.
 τείως δ’ αὖ καὶ βωμὸν ἐπάκτιον Ἑμβασίοιο
 360 θείομεν Απόλλωνος, ὃ μοι χρεῖων ὑπέδεκτο
 σημανέειν δείξειν τε πόρους ἄλός, εἴ κε θηλαῖς
 οὗ ἔθεν ἐξάρχωμαι ἀεθλεύων βασιλῆι.’
 ἦ ῥα, καὶ εἰς ἔργον πρῶτος τράπεθ’· οἱ δ’ ἐπανεστάν
 πειθόμενοι· ἀπὸ δ’ εἵματ’ ἐπήτριμα νηήσαντο
 365 λείψ ἐπὶ πλαταμῶνι, τὸν οὐκ ἐπέβαλλε θάλασσα
 κύμασι, χειμερὶν δὲ πάλαι ἀποέκλυσεν ἄλμη.
 νῆα δ’ ἐπικρατέως Ἄργου ὑποθημοσύνησιν
 ἔζωσαν πάμπρωτον ἐυστρεφεῖ ἔνδοθεν ὅπλω
 τεινάμενοι ἐκάτερθεν, ἵν’ εὖ ἀραροῖατο γόμοις
 370 δούρατα καὶ ῥοθίοιο βίην ἔχοι ἀντιώωσαν.
 σκάπτων δ’ αἶψα κατ’ εὖρος ὅσον περιβάλλετο χῶρον,
 ἡδὲ κατὰ πρῶραν εἴσω ἄλός ὀσσάτιόν περ
 ἐλκομένη χεῖρεσσιν ἐπιδραμέεσθαι ἔμελλεν.
 αἰεὶ δὲ προτέρω χθαμαλότερον ἐξελάχαινον
 375 στείρης, ἐν δ’ ὀλκῷ ξεστὰς στορέσαντο φάλαγγας·
 τὴν δὲ κατάντη κλῖναν ἐπὶ πρώτῃσι φάλαγγιν,
 ὥς κεν ὀλισθαίνουσα δι’ αὐτάων φορέοιτο.
 ὕψι δ’ ἄρ’ ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα μεταστρέψαντες ἐρετμά
 πῆχυνον προύχοντα περὶ σκαλμοῖσιν ἔδησαν.
 380 τῶν δ’ ἐναμοιβαδὶς αὐτοὶ ἐνέσταθεν ἀμφοτέρωθεν,
 στέρνα θ’ ὁμοῦ καὶ χεῖρας ἐπήλασαν. ἐν δ’ ἄρα Τίφους
 βήσαθ’, ἵν’ ὀτρύνειε νέους κατὰ καιρὸν ἐρύσσαι·
 κεκλόμενος δ’ ἦυσε μάλα μέγα· τοὶ δὲ παρ᾽ ἄσπον
 ᾧ κράτει βρῖσαντες ἡῖ στυφέλιξαν ἐρωῇ
 385 νειόθεν ἐξ ἔδρης, ἐπὶ δ’ ἐρρώσαντο πόδεσσιν
 προπροβιαζόμενοι· ἡ δ’ ἔσπετο Πηλιᾶς Ἀργῶ
 ῥίμφα μάλ’· οἱ δ’ ἐκάτερθεν ἐπίαχον αἰσποντες.
 αἰ δ’ ἄρ’ ὑπὸ τρόπιδι στιβαρῇ στενάχοντο φάλαγγες
 τριβόμεναι περὶ δέ σφιν αἰδνὴ κήκιε λιγνὺς
 390 βριθοσύνη, κατόλισθε δ’ ἔσω ἄλός· οἱ δὲ μιν αὖθι
 ἄψ ἀνασειράζοντες ἔχον προτέρωσε κιοῦσαν.
 σκαλμοῖς δ’ ἀμφὶς ἐρετμά κατήρτυον· ἐν δὲ οἱ ἰστὸν
 λαίφεά τ’ εὐποίητα καὶ ἀρμαλὴν ἐβάλοντο.

αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ τὰ ἕκαστα περιφραδέως ἀλέγνυναν,
 395 κληῖδας μὲν πρῶτα πάλῳ διεμοιρήσαντο,
 ἄνδρ' ἐντυναμένῳ δοιῶ μίαν· ἐκ δ' ἄρα μέσσην
 ἦρεον Ἡρακλεῖ καὶ ἠρώων ἄτερ ἄλλων
 Ἀγκαίῳ, Τεγέης ὅς ῥα πτολίεθρον ἔναιεν.
 τοῖς μέσσην οἴοισιν ἀπὸ κληῖδα λίποντο
 400 αὐτῶς, οὔτι πάλῳ· ἐπὶ δ' ἔτρεπον αἰνήσαντες
 Τῖφυν ἐυστεῖρης οἰήια νηὸς ἔρυσθαι.
 ἔνθεν δ' αὖ λάιγγας ἀλὸς σχεδὸν ὀχλίζοντες
 νήεον αὐτόθι βωμὸν ἐπάκτιον Ἀπόλλωνος,
 Ἀκτίου Ἐμβασίοιό τ' ἐπώνυμον· ὧκα δέ τοίγε
 405 φिटροὺς ἀζαλέης στόρεσαν καθύπερθεν ἐλαίης.
 τεῖώς δ' αὐτ' ἀγέληθεν ἐπιπροέηκαν ἄγοντες
 βουκόλοι Αἰσονίδαο δύω βόε. τοὺς δ' ἐρύσαντο
 κουρότεροι ἐτάρων βωμοῦ σχεδόν. οἱ δ' ἄρ' ἔπειτα
 χέρνιβά τ' οὐλοχύτας τε παρέσχεθον. αὐτὰρ Ἴησων
 410 εὖχετο κεκλόμενος πατρώιον Ἀπόλλωνα:
 'κλῦθι ἄναξ, Παγασάς τε πόλιν τ' Αἰσωνίδα ναίων,
 ἡμετέροιο τοκῆος ἐπώνυμον, ὅς μοι ὑπέστης
 Πυθοῖ χρειομένῳ ἄνυσιν καὶ πείραθ' ὁδοῖο
 σημανέειν, αὐτὸς γὰρ ἐπαίτιος ἔπλευ ἀέθλων·
 415 αὐτὸς νῦν ἄγε νῆα σὺν ἀρτεμέεσσιν ἐταίροις
 κεῖσε τε καὶ παλίνορσον ἐς Ἑλλάδα. σοὶ δ' ἂν ὀπίσσω
 τόσσων, ὅσσοι κεν νοστήσομεν, ἀγλαὰ ταύρων
 ἱρὰ πάλιν βωμῷ ἐπιθήσομεν· ἄλλα δὲ Πυθοῖ,
 ἄλλα δ' ἐς Ὀρτυγίην ἀπερείσια δῶρα κομίσσω.
 420 νῦν δ' ἴθι, καὶ τήνδ' ἦμιν, Ἐκhebόλε, δέξο θυηλήν,
 ἦν τοι τῆσδ' ἐπίβαθρα χάριν προτεθείμεθα νηὸς
 πρωτίστην· λύσαιμι δ', ἄναξ, ἐπ' ἀπήμονι μοίρῃ
 πείσματα σὴν διὰ μῆτιν· ἐπιπνεύσειε δ' ἀήτης
 μεῖλιχος, ᾧ κ' ἐπὶ πόντον ἐλευσόμεθ' εὐδιόωντες.'
 ἦ, καὶ ἅμ' εὐχολῇ προχύτας βάλε. τῷ δ' ἐπὶ βουσὶν
 ζωσάσθην, Ἀγκαῖος ὑπέρβιος, Ἡρακλῆς τε.
 ἦτοι ὁ μὲν ῥοπάλῳ μέσσον κάρη ἀμφὶ μέτωπα
 πλῆξεν, ὁ δ' ἄθρόος αὖθι πεσὼν ἐνερεῖσατο γαίῃ·
 Ἀγκαῖος δ' ἐτέροιο κατὰ πλατὺν αὐχένα κόψας
 430 χαλκείῳ πελέκει κρατεροὺς διέκερσε τένοντας·
 ἦριπε δ' ἀμφοτέροισι περιρρηδῆς κεράεσσιν.
 τοὺς δ' ἔταροι σφάζαν τε θοῶς, δεῖράν τε βοείας,
 κόπτον, δαίτρευνόν τε, καὶ ἱερὰ μῆρ' ἐτάμοντο,
 καδ δ' ἄμυδις τάγε πάντα καλύψαντες πύκα δημῷ
 435 καῖον ἐπὶ σχίζησιν· ὁ δ' ἀκρήτους χέε λοιβὰς
 Αἰσονίδης, γήθει δὲ σέλας θεεύμενος Ἴδμων
 πάντοσε λαμπόμενον θυέων ἅπο τοῖο τε λιγνὸν

πορφυρέαις ἐλίκεσσιν ἐναΐσιμον αἴσσουσαν·
 αἶψα δ' ἀπηλεγέως νόον ἔκφατο Λητοῖδαο·
 440 ὕμῖν μὲν δὴ μοῖρα θεῶν χρεῖώ τε περῆσαι
 ἐνθάδε κῶας ἄγοντας· ἀπειρέσιοι δ' ἐνὶ μέσσω
 κεῖσθε τε δεῦρό τ' ἔασιν ἀνερχομένοισιν ἄεθλοι.
 αὐτὰρ ἐμοὶ θανέειν στυγερῇ ὑπὸ δαίμονος αἴσῃ
 τηλόθι που πέπρωται ἐπ' Ἀσίδος ἡπείροιο.
 445 ὧδε κακοῖς δεδαῶς ἔτι καὶ πάρος οἰωνοῖσιν
 πότμον ἐμὸν πάτρης ἐξήιον, ὄφρ' ἐπιβαῖην
 νηός, ἐυκλείη δὲ δόμοις ἐπιβάντι λίπηται.
 ὧς ἄρ' ἔφη· κοῦροι δὲ θεοπροπίης αἰόντες
 νόστῳ μὲν γήθησαν, ἄχος δ' ἔλεν Ἴδμονος αἴσῃ.
 450 ἦμος δ' ἡέλιος σταθερὸν παραμείβεται ἦμαρ,
 αἰ δὲ νέον σκοπέλοισιν ὑποσκιόωνται ἄρουραι,
 δειελινὸν κλίνοντος ὑπὸ ζόφον ἡελίοιο,
 τῆμος ἄρ' ἤδη πάντες ἐπὶ ψαμάθοισι βαθεῖαν
 φυλλάδα χευάμενοι πολιοῦ πρόπαρ αἰγιαλοῖο
 455 κέκλινθ' ἐξείης· παρὰ δέ σφισι μυρί' ἔκειτο
 εἶδατα, καὶ μέθου λαρόν, ἀφυσσαμένων προχόῃσιν
 οἶνοχών· μετέπειτα δ' ἁμοιβαδὶς ἀλλήλοισιν
 μυθεῦνθ', οἷά τε πολλὰ νέοι παρὰ δαιτὶ καὶ οἶνῳ
 τερπνῶς ἐψιόωνται, ὅτ' ἄατος ὕβρις ἀπείη.
 460 ἔνθ' αὐτ' Αἰσονίδης μὲν ἀμήχανος εἶν' εἰς αὐτῷ
 πορφύρεσκεν ἕκαστα κατηφιόωντι ἐοικώς.
 τὸν δ' ἄρ' ὑποφρασθεὶς μεγάλη ὀπί νείκεσεν Ἴδας·
 'Αἰσονίδη, τίνα τήνδε μετὰ φρεσὶ μῆτιν ἐλίσσεις;
 αὐδα ἐνὶ μέσσοισι τεδὸν νόον. ἦέ σε δαμνᾷ
 465 τάρβος ἐπιπλόμενον, τό τ' ἀνάγκιδας ἄνδρας ἀτύζει;
 ἵστω νῦν δόρυ θοῦρον, ὅτῳ περιώσιον ἄλλων
 κῦδος ἐνὶ πτολέμοισιν ἀείρομαι, οὐδέ μ' ὀφέλλει
 Ζεὺς τόσον, ὅσσάτιόν περ ἐμὸν δόρυ, μὴ νύ τι πῆμα
 λοίγιον ἔσσεσθαι, μηδ' ἀκράαντον ἄεθλον
 470 ἴδω ἐσπομένοιο, καὶ εἰ θεὸς ἀντιόφω.
 τοῖόν μ' Ἀρήνηθεν ἀοσσητῆρα κομίζεις.
 ἦ, καὶ ἐπισχόμενος πλεῖον δέπας ἀμφοτέρησιν
 πῖνε χαλίκρητον λαρόν μέθυ· δεύετο δ' οἶνῳ
 χεῖλεα, κυάνεαί τε γενειάδες· οἱ δ' ὁμάδησαν
 475 πάντες ὁμῶς, Ἴδμων δὲ καὶ ἀμφαδῖην ἀγόρευσεν·
 'δαιμόνιε, φρονέεις ὀλοφώϊα καὶ πάρος αὐτῷ.
 ἦέ τοι εἰς ἄτην ζωρὸν μέθυ θαρσαλέον κῆρ
 οἰδάνει ἐν στήθεσσι, θεοὺς δ' ἀνέηκεν ἀτίζειν;
 ἄλλοι μῦθοι ἔασι παρήγοροι, οἷσί περ ἀνήρ
 480 θαρσύνοι ἔταρον· σὺ δ' ἀτάσθαλα πάμπαν ἔειπας,
 τοῖα φάτις καὶ τοὺς πρὶν ἐπιφλύειν μακάρεσσιν

υἱας Ἀλωιάδας, οἷς οὐδ' ὅσον ἰσοφαρίζεις
 ἡγορήν· ἔμπης δὲ θοοῖς ἐδάμησαν οἰστοῖς
 ἄμφω Λητοῖδαο, καὶ ἱφθιμοὶ περ ἐόντες.
 485 ὧς ἔφατ'· ἐκ δ' ἐγέλασσαν ἄδῃν Ἀφαρήιος Ἴδας
 καὶ μιν ἐπιλλίζων ἡμείβετο κερτομίοισιν·
 'ἄγρει νυν τόδε σῆσι θεοπροπίησιν ἐνίσπες,
 εἰ καὶ ἐμοὶ τοιόνδε θεοὶ τελέουσιν ὄλεθρον,
 οἷον Ἀλωιάδῃσι πατὴρ τεδὸς ἐγγυάλιξεν.
 490 φράζεο δ' ὅπως χεῖρας ἐμὰς σόος ἐξαλέοιο,
 χρεῖῳ θεσπίζων μεταμώνιον εἴ κεν ἀλώῃς.
 Χώετ' ἐνιπτάζων· προτέρω δέ κε νεῖκος ἐτύχθη,
 εἰ μὴ δηριόωντας ὁμοκλήσαντες ἐταῖροι
 αὐτός τ' Αἰσονίδης κατερήτυεν· ἂν δὲ καὶ Ὀρφεὺς
 495 λαῖῃ ἀνασχόμενος κίθαριν πεύραζεν αὐοιδῆς.
 ἦειδεν δ' ὥς γαῖα καὶ οὐρανὸς ἠδὲ θάλασσα,
 τὸ πρὶν ἐπ' ἀλλήλοισι μιῇ συναρηρότα μορφῇ,
 νεῖκεος ἐξ ὀλοοῖο διέκριθεν ἀμφὶς ἕκαστα·
 ἦδ' ὥς ἔμπεδον αἰὲν ἐν αἰθέρι τέκμαρ ἔχουσιν
 500 ἄστρα σεληναίη τε καὶ ἡελίοιο κέλευθοι·
 οὐρεά θ' ὥς ἀνέτειλε, καὶ ὥς ποταμοὶ κελάδοντες
 αὐτῇσιν νύμφησι καὶ ἔρπετὰ πάντ' ἐγένοντο.
 ἦειδεν δ' ὥς πρῶτον Ὀφίων Εὐρυινόμη τε
 Ὠκεανὶς νιφόεντος ἔχον κράτος Οὐλύμποιο·
 505 ὧς τε βίη καὶ χερσὶν ὁ μὲν Κρόνῳ εἵκαθε τιμῆς,
 ἦ δὲ Ῥέῃ, ἔπεσον δ' ἐνὶ κύμασιν Ὠκεανοῖο·
 οἱ δὲ τέως μακάρεσσι θεοῖς Τιτῇσιν ἄνασσαν,
 ὄφρα Ζεὺς ἔτι κοῦρος, ἔτι φρεσὶ νήπια εἰδώς,
 Δικταῖον ναίεσκεν ὑπὸ σπέρος· οἱ δὲ μιν οὐπω
 510 γηγενέες Κύκλωπες ἐκαρτύναντο κεραυνῷ,
 βροντῇ τε στεροπῇ τε· τὰ γὰρ Διὶ κῦδος ὀπάζει.
 ἦ, καὶ ὁ μὲν φόρμιγγα σὺν ἀμβροσίῃ σχέθεν αὐδοῇ.
 τοὶ δ' ἄμοτον λήξαντος ἔτι προύχοντο κάρηνα
 πάντες ὁμῶς ὀρθοῖσιν ἐπ' οὐᾶσιν ἡρεμέοντες
 515 κηληθμῷ· τοῖόν σφιν ἐνέλλιπε θέλκτρον αὐοιδῆς.
 οὐδ' ἐπὶ δὴν μετέπειτα κερασσάμενοι Διὶ λοιβάς,
 ἦ θέμις, ἐστηῶτες ἐπὶ γλώσσησι χέοντο
 αἰθομέναις, ὕπνου δὲ διὰ κνέφας ἐμνύοντο.
 αὐτὰρ ὅτ' αἰγλήεσσα φαεινοῖς ὄμμασιν Ἥως
 520 Πηλίου αἰπεινὰς ἶδεν ἄκριας, ἐκ δ' ἀνέμοιο
 εὐδίοι ἐκλύζοντο τινασσομένης ἁλὸς ἄκραι,
 δὴ τότε· ἀνέγρετο Τῖφυς· ἄφαρ δ' ὀρόθυενεν ἐταίρους
 βαινόμεναι τ' ἐπὶ νῆα καὶ ἀρτύνασθαι ἔρετμά.
 σμερδαλέον δὲ λιμὴν Παγασῆιος ἠδὲ καὶ αὐτὴ
 525 Πηλιὰς ἴαχεν Ἀργῶ ἐπισπέρχουσα νέεσθαι.

ἐν γάρ οἱ δόρυ θεῖον ἐλήλατο, τό ρ' ἀνὰ μέσσην
στεῖραν Ἀθηναίη Δωδωνίδος ἤρμωσε φηγοῦ.
οἱ δ' ἀνὰ σέλματα βάντες ἐπισχερῶ ἀλλήλοισιν,
ὥς ἐδάσαντο πάροιθεν ἐρεσσέμεν ᾧ ἐνὶ χώρῳ,
530 εὐκόσμως σφετέροισι παρ' ἔντεσιν ἐδριόωντο.
μέσσω δ' Ἀγκαῖος μέγα τε σθένος Ἡρακλῆος
ἵζανον· ἄγχι δέ οἱ ρόπαλον θέτο, καὶ οἱ ἔνερθεν
ποσσὶν ὑπεκλύσθη νηὸς τρόπῃς·· εἵλκετο δ' ἦδη
πείσματα, καὶ μέθυ λείβον ὑπερθ' ἄλός. αὐτὰρ Ἰήσων
535 δακρυόεις γαίης ἀπὸ πατρίδος ὄμματ' ἔνεικεν.
οἱ δ', ὥστ' ἠΐθεοι Φοῖβφ χορὸν ἦ ἐνὶ Πυθοὶ
ἦ που ἐν Ὀρτυγίῃ, ἦ ἐφ' ὕδασιν Ἴσμηνοῖο
στησάμενοι, φόρμιγγος ὑπαὶ περὶ βωμόν ὁμαρτῇ
ἐμμελέως κραιπνοῖσι πέδον ῥήσσωσι πόδεςσιν·
540 ὥς οἱ ὑπ' Ὀρφῆος κιθάρῃ πέπληγον ἐρετμοῖς
πόντου λάβρον ὕδωρ, ἐπὶ δὲ ρόθια κλύζοντο·
ἀφρῶ δ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα κελαινὴ κήκιεν ἄλμη
δεινὸν μορμύρουσα ἐρισθενέων μένει ἀνδρῶν.
στράπτε δ' ὑπ' ἡελίῳ φλογὶ εἵκελα νηὸς ἰούσης
545 τεύχεα· μακραι δ' αἰὲν ἐλευκαίνοντο κέλευθοι,
ἀτραπὸς ὧς χλοεροῖο διειδομένη πεδίοιο.
πάντες δ' οὐρανόθεν λεῦσσον θεοὶ ἤματι κείνῳ
νῆα καὶ ἡμιθέων ἀνδρῶν μένος, οἱ τότε ἄριστοι
πόντον ἐπιπλώεσκον· ἐπ' ἀκροτάτῃσι δὲ νύμφαι
550 Πηλιάδες κορυφῇσιν ἐθάμβεον εἰσορόωσαι
ἔργον Ἀθηναίης Ἰτωνίδος, ἡδὲ καὶ αὐτοὺς
ἥρωας χεῖρεςσιν ἐπικραδάοντας ἐρετμά.
αὐτὰρ ὅγ' ἐξ ὑπάτου ὄρεος κίεν ἄγχι θαλάσσης
χείρων Φιλλυρίδης, πολὺν δ' ἐπὶ κύματος ἀγῇ
555 τέγγε πόδας, καὶ πολλὰ βαρεῖν χειρὶ κελεύων,
νόστον ἐπευφήμησεν ἀκηδέα νισσομένοισιν.
σὺν καὶ οἱ παράκοιτις ἐπωλένιον φορέουσα
Πηλεΐδην Ἀχιλῆα, φίλῳ δειδίσκετο πατρί.
οἱ δ' ὅτε δὴ λιμένος περιηγέα κάλλιπον ἀκτὴν
560 φραδομοσύνη μῆτι τε δαΐφρονος Ἀγνιάδαο
Τίφυος, ὅς ρ' ἐνὶ χερσὶν εὐζοα τεχνηέντως
πηδάλι' ἀμφιέπεσκ', ὅφρ' ἔμπεδον ἐξιθύνει,
δὴ ῥα τότε μέγαν ἰστὸν ἐνεστήσαντο μεσόδμη,
δῆσαν δὲ προτόνοισι, τανυσσάμενοι ἐκάτερθεν,
565 καὶ δ' αὐτοῦ λῖνα χεῦαν, ἐπ' ἡλακάτην ἐρύσαντες.
ἐν δὲ λιγὺς πέσεν οὖρος· ἐπ' ἰκριόφιν δὲ κάλῳας
ξεστῇσιν περόνῃσι διακριδὸν ἀμφιβαλόντες
Τισαίην εὐκηλοὶ ὑπὲρ δολιχὴν θεὸν ἄκρην.
τοῖσι δὲ φορμίζων εὐθήμονι μέλπεν ἀοιδῇ

570 Οἰάγριοι πάις νηοσσόον εὐπατέρειαν
 Ἄρτεμιν, ἥ κείνας σκοπιὰς ἀλὸς ἀμφιέπεσκεν
 ῥυομένη καὶ γαῖαν Ἰωλκίδα· τοὶ δὲ βαθείης
 ἰχθύες αἰσسونτες ὑπερθ' ἀλός, ἄμμιγα παύροις
 ἄπλετοι, ὑγρὰ κέλευθα διασκαίροντες ἔποντο.
 575 ὥς δ' ὅπὸτ' ἀγραύλοιο κατ' ἵχνια σημαντήρος
 μυρία μῆλ' ἐφέπονται ἄδην κεκορημένα ποίης
 εἰς αὖλιν, ὃ δέ τ' εἴσι πάρος σύριγ γι λιγείῃ
 καλὰ μελιζόμενος νόμιον μέλος, ὥς ἄρα τοίγε
 ὠμάρτευν· τὴν δ' αἰὲν ἐπασσύτερος φέρεν οὖρος.
 580 αὐτίκα δ' ἡερίη πολυλήιος αἶα Πελασγῶν
 δύετο, Πηλιάδας δὲ παρεξήμειβον ἐρίπνας
 αἰὲν ἐπιπροθέοντες· ἔδυνε δὲ Σηπιὰς ἄκρη,
 φαίνεται δ' εἰναλίη Σκίαθος, φαίνοντο δ' ἄπωθεν
 Πειρεσιαὶ Μάγνησά θ' ὑπεύδιος ἡπείροιο
 585 ἄκτῃ καὶ τύμβος Δολοπήιος· ἐνθ' ἄρα τοίγε
 ἐσπέριοι ἀνέμοιο παλιμπνοίησιν ἔκελσαν,
 καὶ μιν κυδαίνοντες ὑπὸ κνέφας ἔντομα μῆλων
 κεῖαν, ὀρινομένης ἀλὸς οἴδματι· διπλόα δ' ἄκταῖς
 ἤματ' ἐλινύεσκον· ἀτὰρ τριτάτῳ προέηκαν
 590 νῆα, τανυσσάμενοι περιώσιον ὑψόθι λαῖφος.
 τὴν δ' ἄκτῃν Ἀφέτας Ἀργοῦς ἔτι κικλήσκουσιν.
 ἐνθεν δὲ προτέρωσε παρεξέθεον Μελίβοιαν.
 ἄκτῃν τ' αἰγιαλὸν τε δυσήνεμον εἰσορόωντες.
 ἠῶθεν δ' Ὀμόλῃν αὐτοσχεδὸν εἰσορόωντες
 595 πόντῳ κεκλιμένην παρεμέτρεον· οὐδ' ἔτι δηρὸν
 μέλλον ὑπὲκ ποταμοῖο βαλεῖν Ἀμύριοι ῥέεθρα.
 κεῖθεν δ' Εὐρυμενάς τε πολυκλύστους τε φάραγγας
 Ὅσσης Οὐλύμποιό τ' ἐσέδρακον· αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα
 κλίτεια Παλλήνια, Καναστραίην ὑπὲρ ἄκρην,
 600 ἦνυσαν ἐννύχιοι πνοιῇ ἀνέμοιο θέοντες.
 ἦρι δὲ νισσομένοισιν Ἄθω ἀνέτελλε κολώνῃ
 Θρηκίῃ, ἥ τόσσον ἀπόπροθι Λῆμνον εἰούσαν,
 ὅσσον ἐς ἐνδιὸν κεν εὐστολος ὀλκὰς ἀνύσσαι,
 ἀκροτάτῃ κορυφῇ σκιάει, καὶ ἐσάχρι Μυρίνης.
 605 τοῖσιν δ' αὐτῆμαρ μὲν ἄεν καὶ ἐπὶ κνέφας οὖρος
 πάγχυ μάλ' ἀκραῖς, τετάνυστο δὲ λαίφεα νηός.
 αὐτὰρ ἄμ' ἡελίοιο βολαῖς ἀνέμοιο λιπόντος
 εἰρεσίῃ κραναὴν Σιντηίδα Λῆμνον ἵκοντο.
 ἐνθ' ἄμυδις πᾶς δῆμος ὑπερβασίησι γυναικῶν
 610 νηλειῶς δέδμητο παροιχομένῳ λυκάβαντι.
 δὴ γὰρ κουριδίας μὲν ἀπηνήναντο γυναῖκας
 ἄνδρες ἐχθήραντες, ἔχον δ' ἐπὶ ληιάδεσσιν
 τρηχὺν ἔρον, ὥς αὐτοὶ ἀγίνεον ἀντιπέρηθεν

Θρηκίην δηοῦντες· ἐπεὶ χόλος αἰνὸς ὅπαζεν
 615 Κύπιδος, οὐνεκά μιν γεράων ἐπὶ δηρὸν ἄτισσαν.
 ὦ μέλαι, ζήλοιο τ' ἐπισμυγεῶς ἀκόρητοι.
 οὐκ οἶον σὺν τῇσιν ἐοὺς ἔρραισαν ἀκοίτας
 ἀμφ' εὐνῇ, πᾶν δ' ἄρσεν ὁμοῦ γένος, ὥς κεν ὀπίσσω
 μήτινα λευγαλέοιο φόνου τίσειαν ἀμοιβήν.
 620 οἷη δ' ἐκ πασέων γεραροῦ περιφείσατο πατρὸς
 Ὑψιπύλεια Θόαντος, ὃ δὴ κατὰ δῆμον ἄνασσεν·
 λάρνακι δ' ἐν κοίλῃ μιν ὑπερθ' ἄλως ἦκε φέρεσθαι,
 αἶ κε φύγῃ. καὶ τὸν μὲν ἐς Οἰνοίην ἐρύσαντο
 πρόσθεν, ἀτὰρ Σίκινόν γε μεθύστερον αὐδηθεῖσαν
 625 νῆσον, ἐπακτῆρες, Σικίνου ἄπο, τὸν ῥα Θόαντι
 νηϊὰς Οἰνοίῃ νύμφῃ τέκεν εὐνηθεῖσα.
 τῇσι δὲ βουκόλαιί τε βοῶν χάλκειά τε δύνειν
 τεύχεα, πυροφόρους τε διατμηξασθαι ἀροῦρας
 ῥήτερον πάσῃσιν Ἀθηναίης πέλεν ἔργων,
 630 οἷς αἰεὶ τὸ πάροιθεν ὁμίλειον. ἀλλὰ γὰρ ἔμπηξ
 ἦ θαμὰ δὴ πάπταινον ἐπὶ πλατὺν ὄμμασι πόντον
 δείματι λευγαλέῳ, ὅποτε Θρήικες ἴασιν.
 τῷ καὶ ὅτ' ἐγγύθι νήσου ἐρεσσομένην ἴδον Ἀργῷ,
 αὐτίκα πασσυδὴ πυλέων ἔκτοσθε Μυρίνης
 635 δῆμα τεύχεα δῦσαι ἐς αἰγιαλὸν προχέοντο,
 Θυιάσιν ὠμοβόροις ἱκελαι· φὰν γάρ που ἰκάνειν
 Θρήικας· ἡ δ' ἅμα τῇσι Θοαντιάς Ὑψιπύλεια
 δύν' ἐνὶ τεύχεσι πατρός. ἀμηχανίῃ δ' ἐχέοντο
 ἄφθογγοι· τοῖόν σφιν ἐπὶ δέος ἦωρεῖτο.
 640 τεῖως δ' αὖτ' ἐκ νηὸς ἀριστῆες προέηκαν
 Αἰθαλίδην κήρυκα θοόν, τῷπέρ τε μέλεσθαι
 ἀγγελίας καὶ σκῆπτρον ἐπέτρεπον Ἑρμείας,
 σφωιτέροιο τοκῆος, ὃ οἱ μνήστιν πόρε πάντων
 ἄφθοιτον· οὐδ' ἔτι νῦν περ ἀποικομένου Ἀχέροντος
 645 δῖνας ἀπροφάτους ψυχὴν ἐπιδέδρομε λήθη·
 ἀλλ' ἦγ' ἔμπεδον αἰὲν ἀμειβομένη μεμόρηται,
 ἄλλοθ' ὑποχθονίοις ἐναριθμῖος, ἄλλοτ' ἐς αὐγάς
 ἡελίου ζωοῖσι μετ' ἀνδράσιν. ἀλλὰ τί μύθους
 Αἰθαλίδεω χρειῷ με διηνεκέως ἀγορεύειν;
 650 ὅς ῥα τόθ' Ὑψιπύλην μειλίζατο δέχθαι ἰόντας
 ἡματος ἀνομένοιο διὰ κνέφας· οὐδὲ μὲν ἦοι
 πείσματα νηὸς ἔλυσαν ἐπὶ πνοιῇ βορέας.
 Λημνιάδες δὲ γυναῖκες ἀνὰ πτόλιν ἶζον ἰοῦσαι
 εἰς ἀγορὴν· αὐτὴ γὰρ ἐπέφραδεν Ὑψιπύλεια.
 655 καὶ ῥ' ὅτε δὴ μάλα πᾶσαι ὁμίλαδὸν ἠγερέθοντο,
 αὐτίκ' ἄρ' ἦγ' ἐνὶ τῇσιν ἐποτρύνουσ' ἀγόρευεν·
 ὦφραι, εἰ δ' ἄγε δὴ μενοεικέα δῶρα πόρωμεν

ἀνδράσιν, οἷά τ' ἔοικεν ἄγειν ἐπὶ νηὸς ἔχοντας,
 ἦια, καὶ μέθυ λαρόν, ἵν' ἔμπεδον ἔκτοθι πύργων
 660 μίμνοιεν, μηδ' ἄμμε κατὰ χρεῖῳ μεθέποντες
 ἀτρεκέως γνῶωσι, κακὴ δ' ἐπὶ πολλὸν ἵκηται
 βᾶξις· ἐπεὶ μέγα ἔργον ἐρέξαμεν, οὐδέ τι πάμπαν
 θυμηδὲς καὶ τοῖσι τόγ' ἔσσεται, εἴ κε δαεῖεν.
 ἡμετέρη μὲν νῦν τοίῃ παρενήνοθε μῆτις·
 665 ὑμέων δ' εἴ τις ἄρειον ἔπος μητίσεται ἄλλη,
 ἐγρέσθω· τοῦ γάρ τε καὶ εἵνεκα δεῦρ' ἐκάλεσσα.
 ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη, καὶ θῶκον ἐφίζανε πατρὸς ἐοῖο
 λάινον· αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα φίλη τροφὸς ὦρτο Πολυξῶ,
 γῆραϊ δὴ ῥικνοῖσιν ἐπισκάζουσα πόδεςσιν,
 670 βάκτρῳ ἐρειδομένη, περὶ δὲ μενέαιν' ἀγορεύσαι.
 τῇ καὶ παρθενικαὶ πίσυρες σχεδὸν ἐδριόωντο
 ἀδμήτες λευκῆσιν ἐπιχνοαούσῃ ἐθειραῖς.
 στῇ δ' ἄρ' ἐνὶ μέσση ἀγορῇ, ἀνὰ δ' ἔσχεθε δειρὴν
 ἦκα μόλις κυφοῖο μεταφρένου, ὧδέ τ' ἔειπεν·
 675 'δῶρα μὲν, ὥς αὐτῇ περ ἐφاندάνει Ὑψιπυλεῖη,
 πέμπωμεν ξείνοισιν, ἐπεὶ καὶ ἄρειον ὀπάσσαι.
 ὕμμι γε μὴν τίς μῆτις ἐπαύρεσθαι βιότοιο,
 αἷ κεν ἐπιβρίση Θρηῖξ στρατός, ἡέ τις ἄλλος
 δυσμενέων, ἃ τε πολλὰ μετ' ἀνθρώποισι πέλονται;
 680 ὥς καὶ νῦν ὅδ' ὄμιλος ἀνωίστως ἐφικάνει.
 εἰ δὲ τὸ μὲν μακάρων τις ἀποτρέποι, ἄλλα δ' ὀπίσσω
 μυρία δηιοτῆτος ὑπέρτερα πῆματα μίμνει,
 εὖτ' ἂν δὴ γεραραὶ μὲν ἀποφθινύθωσι γυναῖκες,
 κουρότεραι δ' ἄγονοι στυγερὸν ποτὶ γῆρας ἵκησθε.
 685 πῶς τῆμος βώσεσθε δυσάμμοροι; ἦε βαθείαις
 αὐτόματοι βόες ὕμμιν ἐνιζευχθέντες ἀρούραις
 γειοτόμον νειοῖο διειρύσσουσιν ἄροτρον,
 καὶ πρόκα τελλομένου ἔτεος στάχυν ἀμήσονται;
 ἦ μὲν ἐγών, εἰ καὶ μετὰ νῦν ἔτι πεφρίκασιν
 690 κῆρες, ἐπερχόμενόν που ὀίομαι εἰς ἔτος ἥδη
 γαῖαν ἐφέσσεσθαι, κτερέων ἀπὸ μοῖραν ἐλοῦσαν
 αὐτῶς, ἥ θέμις ἐστί, πάρος κακότητα πελάσσαι.
 ὀπλοτέρησι δὲ πάγχυ τάδε φράζεσθαι ἄνωγα.
 νῦν γὰρ δὴ παρὰ ποσσὶν ἐπήβολός ἐστ' ἄλεωρή,
 695 εἴ κεν ἐπιτρέψητε δόμους καὶ ληίδα πᾶσαν
 ὑμετέρεην ξείνοισι καὶ ἀγλαὸν ἄστν μέλεσθαι.
 ὥς ἔφατ'· ἐν δ' ἀγορῇ πλῆτο θρόου. εὐᾶδε γάρ σφιν
 μῦθος· ἀτὰρ μετὰ τήνγε παρασχεδὸν αὐτὶς ἄνθρωπο
 Ὑψιπύλῃ, καὶ τοῖον ὑποβλήδην ἔπος ἤδα·
 700 'εἰ μὲν δὴ πάσησιν ἐφاندάνει ἥδε μενοινή,
 ἥδη κεν μετὰ νῆα καὶ ἄγγελον ὀτρύναιμι.'

ἦ ῥα, καὶ Ἴφινόην μετεφώνεεν ἄσπον ἐοῦσαν·
 ὄρσο μοι, Ἴφινόη, τοῦδ' ἀνέρος ἀντιόωσα,
 ἡμέτερόνδε μολεῖν, ὅστις στόλου ἡγεμονεύει,
 705 ὄφρα τί οἱ δῆμοιο ἔπος θυμῆρες ἐνίσπω·
 καὶ δ' αὐτοὺς γαίης τε καὶ ἄστεος, αἶ κ' ἐθέλωσιν,
 κέκλειο θαρσαλέως ἐπιβαινέμεν εὐμενέοντας·
 ἦ, καὶ ἔλυσ' ἀγορήν, μετὰ δ' εἰς ἐὸν ὥρτο νέεσθαι.
 ὧς δὲ καὶ Ἴφινόη Μινύας ἵκεθ'· οἱ δ' ἐρέεινον,
 710 χρεῖος ὃ τι φρονέουσα μετήλυθεν. ὦκα δὲ τούσγε
 πασσυδίῃ μύθοισι προσέννεπεν ἐξερέοντας·
 'κούρη τοί μ' ἐφέηκε Θεοαντιάς ἐνθάδ' ἰοῦσαν,
 Ὑψιπύλῃ, καλέειν νηὸς πρόμον, ὅστις ὄρωρεν,
 ὄφρα τί οἱ δῆμοιο ἔπος θυμῆρες ἐνίσπη·
 715 καὶ δ' αὐτοὺς γαίης τε καὶ ἄστεος, αἶ κ' ἐθέλῃτε,
 κέκλεται αὐτίκα νῦν ἐπιβαινέμεν εὐμενέοντας·'
 ὧς ἄρ' ἔφη· πάντεσσι δ' ἐναΐσιμος ἦνδανε μῦθος.
 Ὑψιπύλῃν δ' εἷσαντο καταφθιμένοιο Θόαντος
 τηλυγέτην γεγαυῖαν ἀνασσέμεν· ὦκα δὲ τόνγε
 720 πέμπον ἴμεν, καὶ δ' αὐτοὶ ἐπεντύνοντο νέεσθαι.
 αὐτὰρ ὄγ' ἀμφ' ὦμοισι θεᾶς Τριτωνίδος ἔργον,
 δίπλακα πορφυρέην περονήσατο, τήν οἱ ὅπασσεν
 Παλλάς, ὅτε πρῶτον δρυόχους ἐπεβάλλετο νηὸς
 Ἀργούς, καὶ κανόνεσσι δάε ζυγὰ μετρήσασθαι.
 725 τῆς μὲν ῥηίτερόν κεν ἐς ἡέλιον ἀνιόντα
 ὄσσε βάλοις, ἢ κείνο μεταβλέψειας ἔρευθος.
 δὴ γάρ τοι μέσση μὲν ἐρευθήεσσ' ἐτέτυκτο,
 ἄκρα δὲ πορφυρέῃ πάντῃ πέλεν· ἐν δ' ἄρ' ἐκάστω
 τέρματι δαίδαλα πολλὰ διακριδὸν εὖ ἐπέπαστο.
 730 ἐν μὲν ἔσαν Κύκλωπες ἐπ' ἀφθίτῳ ἥμενοι ἔργῳ,
 Ζηνὶ κεραυνὸν ἄνακτι πονεῦμενοι· ὅς τόσον ἦδη
 παμφαίνων ἐτέτυκτο, μιῆς δ' ἔτι δεύετο μόνον
 ἀκτῖνος, τὴν οἶδε σιδηρεῖης ἐλάσσκον
 σφύρῃσιν, μαλεροῖο πυρὸς ζεῖουσαν αὐτμήν.
 735 ἐν δ' ἔσαν Ἀντιόπης Ἀσωπίδος υἱέε δοιῶ,
 Ἀμφίων καὶ Ζῆθος· ἀπύργωτος δ' ἔτι Θήβῃ
 κεῖτο πέλας, τῆς οἴγε νέον βάλλοντο δομαίους
 ἰέμενοι. Ζῆθος μὲν ἐπωμαδὸν ἡέρταζεν
 οὔρεος ἡλιβάτοιο κάρη, μογέοντι ἐοικώς·
 740 Ἀμφίων δ' ἐπὶ οἱ χρυσέῃ φόρμιγγι λιγαίνων
 ἦε, δις τόσση δὲ μετ' ἵχνια νίσσετο πέτρῃ
 ἐξείης δ' ἥσκητο βαθυπλόκαμος Κυθήρεια
 Ἄρεος ὀχμάζουσα θοὸν σάκος· ἐκ δὲ οἱ ὦμου
 πῆχυν ἔπι σκαῖον ξυνοχὴ κεχάλαστο χιτῶνος
 745 νέρθεν ὑπὲκ μαζοῖο· τὸ δ' ἀντίον ἀτρεκέες αὐτως

χαλκεῖη δείκηλον ἐν ἀσπίδι φαίνεται ἰδέσθαι.
ἐν δὲ βοῶν ἔσκεν λάσιος νομός· ἀμφὶ δὲ βουσὶν
Τηλεβόαι μάρναντο καὶ υἱέες Ἥλεκτρώονος·
οἱ μὲν ἀμυνόμενοι, ἀτὰρ οἷγ' ἐθέλοντες ἀμέρσαι,
750 ληισταὶ Τάφιοι· τῶν δ' αἷματι δεύετο λειμῶν
ἐρσήεις, πολέες δ' ὀλίγους βιόωντο νομῆας.
ἐν δὲ δύω δίφροι πεπονήατο δηριόωντες.
καὶ τὸν μὲν προπάροιθε Πέλοψ ἵθυνε, τινάσσων
ἠνία, σὺν δέ οἱ ἔσκε παραιβάτις Ἴποδάμεια·
755 τὸν δὲ μεταδρομάδην ἐπὶ Μυρτίλος ἤλασεν ἵππους,
σὺν τῷ δ' Οἰνόμαος προτενὲς δόρυ χειρὶ μεμαρπῶς
ἄξονος ἐν πλήμνησι παρακλιδὸν ἀγνυμένοιο
πίπτεν, ἐπεσσύμενος Πελοπῆια νῶτα δαΐζαι.
ἐν καὶ Ἀπόλλων Φοῖβος οἰστεύων ἐτέτυκτο,
760 βούπαις οὐπῶ πολλός, ἔην ἐρύοντα καλύπτρης
μητέρα θαρσαλέως Τιτυὸν μέγαν, ὃν ῥ' ἔτεκέν γε
δῖ' Ἑλάρη, θρέψεν δὲ καὶ ἄψ' ἐλοχεύσατο Γαῖα.
ἐν καὶ Φρίξος ἔην Μινυήιος ὥς ἐτεόν περ
εἰσαῖων κριοῦ, ὁ δ' ἄρ' ἐξενέποντι ἐοικώς.
765 κείνους κ' εἰσορόων ἀκέοις, ψεύδοιό τε θυμόν,
ἐλπόμενος πυκινὴν τιν' ἀπὸ σφείων ἐσακοῦσαι
βάξιν, ὃ καὶ δηρόν περ ἐπ' ἐλπίδι θηήσαιο.
τοῖ' ἄρα δῶρα θεᾶς Τριτωνίδος ἦεν Ἀθήνης.
δεξιτερῇ δ' ἔλεν ἔγχος ἐκηβόλον, ὃ ῥ' Ἀταλάντη
770 Μαινάλῳ ἔν ποτέ οἱ ξεινήιον ἐγγυάλιξεν,
πρόφρων ἀντομένη· περὶ γὰρ μενέαινεν ἐπεσθαι
τὴν ὁδόν· ἀλλὰ γὰρ αὐτὸς ἐκὼν ἀπερήτυε κούρην,
δεῖσεν δ' ἀργαλέας ἔριδας φιλότητος ἔκhti.
βῆ δ' ἵμεναι προτὶ ἄστυ, φαεινῷ ἀστέρι ἴσος,
775 ὃν ῥά τε νηγατέησιν ἐεργόμεναι καλύβησιν
νύμφαι θηήσαντο δόμων ὕπερ ἀντέλλοντα,
καὶ σφισι κυανέοιο δι' ἡέρος ὄμματα θέλγει
καλὸν ἐρευθόμενος, γάνυται δέ τε ἠιθέοιο
παρθένος ἰμείρουσα μετ' ἄλλοδαποῖσιν ἐόντος
780 ἀνδράσιν, ᾧ καὶ μιν μνηστὴν κομέουσι τοκῆς·
τῷ ἵκελος πρὸ πόληος ἀνὰ στίβον ἦεν ἥρως.
καὶ ῥ' ὅτε δὴ πυλέων τε καὶ ἄστεος ἐντὸς ἔβησαν,
δημότεραι μὲν ὀπισθεν ἐπεκλονέοντο γυναῖκες,
γηθόσυναί ξείνῳ· ὁ δ' ἐπὶ χθονὸς ὄμματ' ἐρείσας
785 νίσσειτ' ἀπηλεγέως, ὄφρ' ἀγλαὰ δώμαθ' ἵκανε
Ὑψιπύλης· ἄνεσαν δὲ πύλας προφανέντι θεράπναι
δικλίδας, εὐτύκτοισιν ἀρηρεμένας σανίδεσσιν.
ἐνθα μιν Ἴφινὴ κλισμῷ ἐνι παμφανόωντι
ἐσσυμένως καλῆς διὰ παστάδος εἷσεν ἄγουσα

790 ἀντία δεσποίνης· ἡ δ' ἐγκλιδὸν ὅσσε βαλοῦσα
παρθενικὰς ἐρύθηνε παρηίδας· ἔμπα δὲ τόνγε
αἰδομένη μύθοισι προσέννεπεν αἰμυλίοισιν·
‘ξέϊνε, τίη μίμοντες ἐπὶ χρόνον ἔκτοθι πύργων
ἦσθ’ αὐτως· ἐπεὶ οὐ μὲν ὑπ’ ἀνδράσι ναίεται ἄστν,
795 ἀλλὰ Θρηκίης ἐπινάστιοι ἠπεῖριοι
πυροφόρους ἀρώωσι γύας. κακότητα δὲ πᾶσαν
ἐξερῶ νημερτές, ἴν’ εὖ γνοίητε καὶ αὐτοί.
εὖτε Θόας ἀστοῖσι πατὴρ ἐμὸς ἐμβασίλευεν,
τηνίκα Θρηκίην, οἳ τ’ ἀντία ναιετάουσιν,
800 δῆμου ἀπορνύμενοι λαοὶ πέρθεσκον ἐπαύλους
ἐκ νηῶν, αὐτῇσι δ’ ἀπείρονα ληίδα κούραις
δεῦρ’ ἄγον· οὐλομένης δὲ θεᾶς πορσύνετο μῆτις
Κύπριδος, ἡ τέ σφιν θυμοφθόρον ἔμβαλεν ἄτην.
δῆ γὰρ κουριδίας μὲν ἀπέστυγον, ἐκ δὲ μελάρων,
805 ἡ ματίη εἷξαντες, ἀπεσσεύοντο γυναῖκας·
αὐτὰρ ληιάδεσσι δορικτήταις παρίανον,
σχέτλιοι. ἡ μὲν δηρὸν ἐτέτλαμεν, εἴ κέ ποτ’ αὐτὶς
ὄψε μεταστρέψωσι νόον· τὸ δὲ διπλόον αἰεὶ
πῆμα κακὸν προύβαινε. ἀτιμάζοντο δὲ τέκνα
810 γνήσι’ ἐνὶ μεγάροις, σκοτίη δ’ ἀνέτελλε γενέθλη.
αὐτὼς δ’ ἀδμητές τε κόραι, χῆραί τ’ ἐπὶ τῇσιν
μητέρες ἅμ’ πτολίεθρον ἀτημελέες ἀλάληντο.
οὐδὲ πατὴρ ὀλίγον περ ἔης ἀλέγιζε θυγατρός,
εἰ καὶ ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖσι δαΐζομένην ὀρόφτο
815 μητρυῆς ὑπὸ χερσὶν ἀτασθάλου· οὐδ’ ἀπὸ μητρὸς
λώβην, ὥς τὸ πάροιθεν, ἀεικέα παῖδες ἄμυνον·
οὐδὲ κασιγνήτοισι κασιγνήτῃ μελε θυμῷ.
ἀλλ’ οἶαι κοῦραι ληϊτίδες ἐν τε δόμοισιν
ἐν τε χοροῖς ἀγορῇ τε καὶ εἰλαπίνῃσι μέλοντο·
820 εἰσόκε τις θεὸς ἄμμιν ὑπέρβιον ἔμβαλε θάρσος,
ἅψ’ ἀναερχομένους Θρηκῶν ἅπο μηκέτι πύργους
δέχθαι, ἴν’ ἡ φρονέοιεν ἅπερ θέμις, ἡέ πῃ ἄλλη
αὐταῖς ληιάδεσσιν ἀφορμηθέντες ἴκοιντο.
οἱ δ’ ἄρα θεσσάμενοι παίδων γένος, ὅσπον ἔλειπτο
825 ἄρσεν ἀνὰ πτολίεθρον, ἔβαν πάλιν, ἐνθ’ ἔτι νῦν περ
Θρηκίης ἄροσιν χιονώδεα ναιετάουσιν.
τῷ ὑμεῖς στρωφᾶσθ’ ἐπιδήμιοι· εἰ δέ κεν αὖθι
ναιετάειν ἐθέλοις, καὶ τοι ἄδοι, ἡ τ’ ἂν ἔπειτα
πατρὸς ἐμείο Θόαντος ἔχους γέρας· οὐδέ τί σ’ οἶω
830 γαῖαν ὀνόσσεσθαι· περὶ γὰρ βαθυλῆιός ἄλλων
νήσων, Αἰγαίῃ ὅσαι εἰν ἀλὶ ναιετάουσιν.
ἀλλ’ ἄγε νῦν ἐπὶ νῆα κιῶν ἐτάροισιν ἐνίσπες
μύθους ἡμετέρους, μηδ’ ἔκτοθι μίμνε πόλῃος.’

Ἴσκεν, ἀμαλδύνουσα φόνου τέλος, οἶον ἐτύχθη
 835 ἀνδράσιν· αὐτὰρ ὁ τήνγε παραβλήδην προσέειπεν
 ‘Ὑψιπύλη, μάλα κεν θυμηδέος ἀντιάσαιμεν
 χρημοσύνης, ἣν ἄμμι σέθεν χατέουσιν ὀπάξεις.
 εἶμι δ’ ὑπότροπος αὖτις ἀνὰ πτόλιν, εὖτ’ ἂν ἕκαστα
 ἐξείπω κατὰ κόσμον. ἀνακτορὴ δὲ μελέσθω
 840 σοίγ’ αὐτῇ καὶ νῆσος· ἔγωγε μὲν οὐκ ἀθερίζων
 χάζομαι, ἀλλὰ με λυγροὶ ἐπισπέρχουσιν ἄεθλοι.’
 ἦ, καὶ δεξιτερῆς χειρὸς θίγεν· αἶψα δ’ ὀπίσσω
 βῆ ῥ’ ἵμεν, ἀμφὶ δὲ τόνγε νεήνιδες ἄλλοθεν ἄλλαι
 μυρίαὶ εἰλίσσοντο κεχαρμέναι, ὄφρα πυλάων
 845 ἐξέμολεν. μετέπειτα δ’ ἐντροχάλοισιν ἀμάξαις
 ἀκτὴν εἰσαπέβαν, ξεινήια πολλὰ φέρουσαι,
 μῦθον ὅτ’ ἤδη πάντα διηνεκέως ἀγόρευσεν,
 τὸν ῥα καλεσσομένη διεπέφραδεν Ὑψιπύλεια·
 καὶ δ’ αὐτοὺς ξεινοῦσθαι ἐπὶ σφέα δώματ’ ἄγεσκον
 850 ῥηιδίως. Κύπρις γὰρ ἐπὶ γλυκὺν ἥμερον ὥρσεν
 Ἥφαιστοιο χάριν πολυμήτιος, ὄφρα κεν αὖτις
 ναίηται μετόπισθεν ἀκήρατος ἀνδράσι Λῆμνος.
 ἔνθ’ ὁ μὲν Ὑψιπύλης βασιλῆιον ἐς δόμον ὥρτο
 Αἰσονίδης· οἱ δ’ ἄλλοι ὄπη καὶ ἔκυρσαν ἕκαστος,
 855 Ἥρακλῆος ἄνευθεν, ὁ γὰρ παρὰ νηὶ λέλειπτο
 αὐτὸς ἐκὼν παῦροί τε διακρινθέντες ἐταῖροι.
 αὐτίκα δ’ ἄστν χοροῖσι καὶ εἰλαπίνῃσι γεγῆθει
 καπνῷ κνισήεντι περίπλεον· ἐξοχα δ’ ἄλλων
 ἀθανάτων Ἥρης νῆα κλυτὸν ἠδὲ καὶ αὐτὴν
 860 Κύπριν αἰοιδῆσιν θυέεσσι τε μειλίσσοντο.
 ἀμβολίῃ δ’ εἰς ἡμαρ αἰεὶ ἐξ ἡματος ἦεν
 ναυτιλίης· δηρὸν δ’ ἂν ἐλίνυνον αὖθι μένοντες,
 εἰ μὴ ἀολλίσσας ἐτάρους ἀπάνευθε γυναικῶν
 Ἥρακλέης τοίοισιν ἐνιπτάζων μετέειπεν·
 865 ‘δαιμόνιοι, πάτρης ἐμφύλιον αἶψ’ ἀποέργει
 ἡμέας· ἦε γάμων ἐπιδευέες ἐνθάδ’ ἔβημεν
 κεῖθεν, ὄνοσσάμενοι πολιήτιδας· αὖθι δ’ ἔαδεν
 ναίοντας λιπαρὴν ἄροσιν Λήμνοιο ταμέσθαι·
 οὐ μὰν εὐκλειεῖς γε σὺν ὀθνεῖῃσι γυναιξὶν
 870 ἐσσόμεθ’ ὥδ’ ἐπὶ δηρὸν ἐελμένοι· οὐδέ τι κῶας
 αὐτόματον δώσει τις ἐλὼν θεὸς εὐξαμένοισιν.
 ἴομεν αὖτις ἕκαστοι ἐπὶ σφέα· τὸν δ’ ἐνὶ λέκτροις
 Ὑψιπύλης εἶᾶτε πανήμερον, εἰσόκε Λῆμνον
 παισὶν ἐσανδρώσῃ, μεγάλη τέ ἐ βᾶξις ἴκηται.’
 875 ὣς νεῖκεσεν ὄμιλον· ἐναντία δ’ οὐ νύ τις ἔτλη
 ὄμματ’ ἀνασχεθέειν, οὐδὲ προτιμυθήσασθαι·
 ἄλλ’ αὐτῶς ἀγορήθεν ἐπαρτίζοντο νέεσθαι

σπερχόμενοι. ταὶ δὲ σφιν ἐπέδραμον, εὖτ' ἐδάησαν.
 ὥς δ' ὅτε λείρια καλὰ περιβρομέουσι μέλισσαι
 880 πέτρης ἐκχόμεναι σιμβληίδος, ἀμφὶ δὲ λειμῶν
 ἐρσήεις γάνυται, ταὶ δὲ γλυκὺν ἄλλοτε ἄλλον
 καρπὸν ἀμέργουσιν πεποτημένοι: ὥς ἄρα ταίγε
 ἐνδυκὲς ἀνέρας ἀμφὶ κινυρόμεναι προχέοντο,
 χερσὶ τε καὶ μύθοισιν ἐδεικανόωντο ἕκαστον,
 885 εὐχόμεναι μακάρεσσιν ἀπήμονα νόστον ὀπάσσαι.
 ὥς δὲ καὶ Ὑψιπύλη ἠρήσατο χεῖρας ἐλοῦσα
 Αἰσονίδεω, τὰ δὲ οἱ ῥέε δάκρυα χήτει ἰόντος:
 'Νίσσσο, καὶ σὲ θεοὶ σὺν ἀπηρέσιν αὐτὶς ἐταίροις
 χρύσειον βασιλῆϊ δέρος κομίσειαν ἄγοντα
 890 αὐτως, ὥς ἐθέλεις καὶ τοι φίλον. ἦδε δὲ νῆσος
 σκῆπτρά τε πατρὸς ἐμεῖο παρέσσεται, ἣν καὶ ὀπίσσω
 δὴ ποτε νοστήσας ἐθέλῃς ἄψορρον ἰκέσθαι.
 ῥηιδίως δ' ἂν ἐοῖ καὶ ἀπείρονα λαὸν ἀγείραις
 ἄλλων ἐκ πολίων: ἀλλ' οὐ σύγε τήνδε μενοινῆν
 895 σχήσεις, οὔτ' αὐτὴ προτιόσσομαι ὧδε τελεῖσθαι.
 μνώεο μὴν ἀπεῶν περ ὁμῶς καὶ νόστιμος ἦδη
 Ὑψιπύλης: λίπε δ' ἥμιν ἔπος, τό κεν ἐξανύσαιμι
 πρόφρων, ἣν ἄρα δὴ με θεοὶ δώωσι τεκέσθαι.'
 τὴν δ' αὖτ' Αἴσωνος υἱὸς ἀγαιόμενος προσέειπεν:
 900 'Ὑψιπύλη, τὰ μὲν οὕτω ἐναίσιμα πάντα γένοιτο
 ἐκ μακάρων: τὴν δ' ἐμέθεν πέρι θυμὸν ἀρείω
 ἴσχαν', ἐπεὶ πάτρην μοι ἅλις Πελίαο ἔκητι
 ναιετάειν: μοῦνόν με θεοὶ λύσειαν ἀέθλων.
 εἰ δ' οὐ μοι πέπρωται ἐς Ἑλλάδα γαῖαν ἰκέσθαι
 905 τηλοῦ ἀναπλώοντι, σὺ δ' ἄρσενά παιῖδα τέκῃαι,
 πέμπε μιν ἠβήσαντα Πελασγίδος ἔνδον Ἰωλκοῦ
 πατρί τ' ἐμῷ καὶ μητρὶ δύης ἄκος, ἣν ἄρα τούσγε
 τέτμη' ἔτι ζῶντας, ἴν' ἀνδῖχα τοῖο ἀνακτος
 σφοῖσιν πορσύνωνται ἐφέστιοι ἐν μεγάροισιν.'
 910 ἦ, καὶ ἔβαιν' ἐπὶ νῆα παροίτατος: ὥς δὲ καὶ ἄλλοι
 βαῖνον ἀριστῆες: λάζοντο δὲ χερσὶν ἐρετμὰ
 ἐνσχερῶ ἐζόμενοι: πρυμνήσια δὲ σφισιν Ἄργος
 λῦσεν ὑπὲκ πέτρης ἀλιμυρέος. ἔνθ' ἄρα τοίγε
 κόπτον ὕδωρ δολιχῆσιν ἐπικρατέως ἐλάττησιν.
 915 ἐσπέριοι δ' Ὀρφεὺς ἐφημοσύνησιν ἔκελσαν
 νῆσον ἐς Ἠλέκτρης Ἀτλαντίδος, ὄφρα δαέντες
 ἀρρήτους ἀγανῆσι τελεσφορήσι θέμιστας
 σωότεροι κρυόεσσαν ὑπεῖρ ἄλα ναυτίλλοιντο.
 τῶν μὲν ἔτ' οὐ προτέρω μυθήσομαι: ἀλλὰ καὶ αὐτὴ
 920 νῆσος ὁμῶς κεχάροίτο καὶ οἱ λάχον ὄργια κεῖνα
 δαίμονες ἐνναέται, τὰ μὲν οὐ θέμις ἄμμιν ἀείδειν.

κεῖθεν δ' εἰρεσίη Μέλανος διὰ βένθεα πόντου
 ἰέμενοι τῇ μὲν Θρηκῶν χθόνα, τῇ δὲ περαίνῃ
 Ἴμβρον ἔχον καθύπερθε· νέον γε μὲν ἡλείιο
 925 δυομένου Χερώνησον ἐπὶ προύχουσαν ἴκοντο.
 ἔνθα σφιν λαιψηρὸς ἦν νότος, ἰστία δ' οὖρῳ
 στησάμενοι κούρης Ἀθαμαντίδος αἰπὰ ῥέεθρα
 εἰσέβαλον· πέλαγος δὲ τὸ μὲν καθύπερθε λέλειπτο
 ἦρι, τὸ δ' ἐννύχιοι Ῥοιτειάδος ἔνδοθεν ἀκτῆς
 930 μέτρεον, Ἰδαίην ἐπὶ δεξιὰ γαῖαν ἔχοντες.
 Δαρδανίην δὲ λιπόντες ἐπιποοσέβαλλον Ἀβύδῳ,
 Περκώτην δ' ἐπὶ τῇ καὶ Ἀβαρνίδος ἡμαθόεσσαν
 ἠίονα ζαθήν τε παρήμειβον Πιτύειαν.
 καὶ δὴ τοίγ' ἐπὶ νυκτὶ διάνδιχα νηὸς ἰούσης
 935 δίνῃ πορφύροντα διήνυσαν Ἑλλήσποντον.
 ἔστι δὲ τις αἰπεῖα Προποντίδος ἔνδοθι νῆσος
 τυτθὸν ἀπὸ Φρυγίης πολυληίου ἡπείριοιο
 εἰς ἄλα κεκλιμένη, ὅσσον τ' ἐπιμύρεται ἰσθμὸς
 χέρσῳ ἐπιπρηγῆς καταειμένος· ἐν δὲ οἱ ἄκται
 940 ἀμφίδυμοι, κεῖνται δ' ὑπὲρ ὕδατος Λίσήποιο.
 Λ' ῥκτων μιν καλέουσιν ὄρος περιναιετάοντες·
 καὶ τὸ μὲν ὕβρισταί τε καὶ ἄγριοι ἐνναίουσιν
 Γηγενέες, μέγα θαῦμα περικτιόνεσσιν ἰδέσθαι.
 ἔξ γὰρ ἐκάστῳ χεῖρες ὑπέρβιοι ἡερέθονται,
 945 αἱ μὲν ἀπὸ στιβαρῶν ὤμων δύο, ταὶ δ' ὑπένερθεν
 τέσσαρες αἰνοτάτησιν ἐπὶ πλευρῆς ἀραρυῖαι.
 ἰσθμὸν δ' αὖ πεδῖον τε Δολίονες ἀμφενέμοντο
 ἄνδρες· ἐν δ' ἥρως Λινῆιος υἱὸς ἄνασσεν
 Κύζικος, ὃν κούρῃ δίου τέκεν Εὐσώροιο
 950 Αἰνήτη. τοὺς δ' οὔτι καὶ ἔκπαγλοί περ ἐόντες
 Γηγενέες σίνοντο, Ποσειδάωνος ἀρωγῇ·
 τοῦ γὰρ ἔσαν τὰ πρῶτα Δολίονες ἐκγεγαῶτες.
 ἔνθ' Ἀργῷ προύτυψεν ἐπειγομένη ἀνέμοισιν
 Θρηκίῳις, Καλὸς δὲ λιμὴν ὑπέδεκτο θεούσαν.
 955 κεῖσε καὶ εὐναίης ὀλίγον λίθον ἐκλύσαντες
 Τίφυος ἐννεσίησιν ὑπὸ κρήνῃ ἐλίποντο,
 κρήνῃ ὑπ' Ἀρτακίῃ· ἕτερον δ' ἔλον, ὅστις ἀρήρει,
 βριθύν· ἀτὰρ κεῖνόν γε θεοπροπῖαις Ἑκάτοιο
 Νηλεΐδαι μετόπισθεν Ἴάονες ἰδρύσαντο
 960 ἱερόν, ἣ θέμις ἦεν, Ἰησονίης ἐν Ἀθήνης.
 τοὺς δ' ἄμυδις φιλότῃτι Δολίονες ἡδὲ καὶ αὐτὸς
 Κύζικος ἀντήσαντες ὅτε στόλον ἡδὲ γενέθλην
 ἐκλυνον, οἵτινες εἶεν, ἐυξείνως ἀρέσαντο,
 καὶ σφεας εἰρεσίῃ πέπιθον προτέρωσε κιόντας
 965 ἄστεος ἐν λιμένι πρυμνήσια νηὸς ἀνάψαι,

ἐνθ' οἷγ' Ἐκβασίῳ βωμόν θέσαν Ἀπόλλωνι
 εἰσάμενοι παρὰ θῖνα, θυηπολὶς τ' ἐμελοντο.
 δῶκεν δ' αὐτὸς ἄναξ λαρὸν μέθυ δευοῦνοισιν
 μῆλ' αὖθ' ὁμοῦ· δὴ γάρ οἱ ἔην φάτις, εὖτ' ἂν ἴκωνται
 970 ἄνδρῶν ἡρώων θεῖος στόλος, αὐτίκα τόνγε
 μεΐλιχον ἀντιάαν, μηδὲ πτολέμοιο μέλεσθαι.
 ἴσόν που κάκείνῳ ἐπισταχύεσκον ἴουλοι,
 οὐδέ νύ πω παίδεσσιν ἀγαλλόμενος μεμόρητο·
 ἀλλ' ἔτι οἱ κατὰ δώματ' ἀκήρατος ἦεν ἄκοιτις
 975 ὠδίνων, Μέροπος Περκωσίου ἐκγεγαυῖα,
 Κλείτη ἐυπλόκαμος, τὴν μὲν νέον ἐξέτι πατρὸς
 θεσπεσίοις ἔδνοισιν ἀνήγαγεν ἀντιπέρηθεν.
 ἀλλὰ καὶ ὥς θάλαμόν τε λιπὼν καὶ δέμνια νύμφης
 τοῖς μέτα δαῖτ' ἀλέγυνε, βάλεν δ' ἀπὸ δαίματα θυμοῦ.
 980 ἀλλήλους δ' ἐρέεινον ἁμοιβαδῖς· ἦτοι ὁ μὲν σφεων
 πεύθετο ναυτιλὴς ἄνυσιν, Πελίαό τ' ἐφετμάς·
 οἱ δὲ περικτιόνων πόλιας καὶ κόλπον ἅπαντα
 εὐρείης πεύθοντο Προποντίδος· οὐ μὲν ἐπιπρὸ
 ἡεῖδει καταλέξει ἐλδομένοισι δαῖναι.
 985 ἦοι δ' εἰσανέβαν μέγα Δίνδυμον, ὄφρα καὶ αὐτοὶ
 θηήσαιτο πόρους κείνης ἀλός· ἐκ δ' ἄρα τοίγε
 νῆα Χυτοῦ λιμένος προτέρῳ ἐξήλασαν ὄρμον·
 ἦδε δ' Ἰησονίη πέφαται ὁδός, ἦν περ ἔβησαν.
 Γηγενέες δ' ἐτέρωθεν ἀπ' οὖρεος αἰζαντες
 990 φράξαν ἀπειρεσίῳ Χυτοῦ στόμα νειόθι πέτρης
 πόντιον, οἷά τε θῆρα λοχώμενοι ἔνδον ἔοντα.
 ἀλλὰ γὰρ αὖθι λέλειπτο σὺν ἀνδράσιν ὀπλοτέροισιν
 Ἡρακλῆς, ὃς δὴ σφι παλίντονον αἶψα τανύσσας
 τόξον ἐπασσυτέρους πέλασε χθονί· τοῖ δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ
 995 πέτρας ἀμφιρρῶγας ἀερτάζοντες ἔβαλλον.
 δὴ γὰρ που κάκεῖνα θεὰ τρέφεν αἰνὰ ἑλώρα
 Ἥρη, Ζηνὸς ἄκοιτις, ἀέθλιον Ἡρακλῆι.
 σὺν δὲ καὶ ὄλλοι δῆθεν ὑπότροποι ἀντιόωντες,
 πρίν περ ἀνελθόμεναι σκοπιήν, ἥπτοντο φόνοιο
 1000 γηγενέων ἥρωες ἀρήιοι, ἡμὲν οἱστοῖς
 ἦδε καὶ ἐγχείησι δεδεγμένοι, εἰσόκε πάντας
 ἀντιβίην ἀσπερχὲς ὀρινομένους ἐδάϊξαν.
 ὥς δ' ὅτε δούρατα μακρὰ νέον πελέκεσσι τυπέντα
 ὑλοτόμοι στοιχηδὸν ἐπὶ ῥηγμῖνι βάλωσιν,
 1005 ὄφρα νοτισθέντα κρατεροὺς ἀνεχοῖατο γόμφους·
 ὥς οἱ ἐνὶ ξυνοχῇ λιμένος πολιοῖο τέταντο
 ἐξείης, ἄλλοι μὲν ἐς ἀλμυρὸν ἀθρόοι ὕδωρ
 δύπτοντες κεφαλὰς καὶ στήθεα, γυῖα δ' ὑπερθεῖν
 χέρσῳ τεινάμενοι· τοῖ δ' ἔμπαλιν, αἰγιαλοῖο

1010 κράτα μὲν ψαμάθοισι, πόδας δ' εἰς βένθος ἔρειδον,
 ἄμφω ἅμ' οἰωνοῖσι καὶ ἰχθύσι κύρμα γενέσθαι.
 ἦρωες δ', ὅτε δὴ σφιν ἀταρβῆς ἔπλετ' ἄεθλος,
 δὴ τότε πείσματα νηὸς ἐπὶ πνοιῆς ἀνέμοιο
 λυσάμενοι προτέρωσε διεῖξ' ἄλως οἶδμα νέοντο.
 1015 ἡ δ' ἔθθεν λαίφεσσι πανήμερος· οὐ μὲν ἰούσης
 νυκτὸς ἔτι ῥιπὴ μένεν ἔμπεδον, ἀλλὰ θύελλα
 ἀντία ἀρπάγδην ὀπίσω φέρον, ὄφρ' ἐπέλασσαν
 αὐτὶς ἐνζείνοισι Δολίοσιν ἐκ δ' ἄρ' ἔβησαν
 αὐτονοχί· ἱερὴ δὲ φατίζεται ἥδ' ἔτι πέτρη,
 1020 ἣ πέρι πείσματα νηὸς ἐπεσσύμενοι ἐβάλλοντο.
 οὐδέ τις αὐτὴν νῆσον ἐπιφραδέως ἐνόησεν
 ἔμμεναι· οὐδ' ὑπὸ νυκτὶ Δολίονες ἄψ' ἀνιόντας
 ἦρωας νημερτὲς ἐπήσαν· ἀλλὰ που ἀνδρῶν
 Μακρίων εἴσαντο Πελασγικὸν ἄρεα κέλσαι.
 1025 τῷ καὶ τεύχεα δύντες ἐπὶ σφίσι χεῖρας ἄειραν.
 σὺν δ' ἔλασαν μελίας τε καὶ ἀσπίδας ἀλλήλοισιν
 ὀξεῖη ἵκελοι ῥιπῇ πυρός, ἥ τ' ἐνὶ θάμνοισι
 ἀναλέοισι πεσοῦσα κορύσσεται· ἐν δὲ κυδοιμὸς
 δεινὸς τε ζαμενὴς τε Δολιονίῳ πέσε δῆμῳ.
 1030 οὐδ' ὄγε δηιοτῆτος ὑπὲρ μόρον αὐτὶς ἔμελλεν
 οἴκαδε νυμφιδίους θαλάμους καὶ λέκτρον ἰκέσθαι.
 ἀλλὰ μιν Λίσονίδης τετραμμένον ἰθὺς ἐοῖο
 πλῆξεν ἐπαῖζας στῆθος μέσον, ἀμφὶ δὲ δουρὶ
 ὀστέον ἐρραίσθη· ὁ δ' ἐνὶ ψαμάθοισιν ἔλυσθεις
 1035 μοῖραν ἀνέπλησεν. τὴν γὰρ θέμις οὐποτ' ἀλύξαι
 θνητοῖσιν· πάντῃ δὲ περὶ μέγα πέπταται ἔρκος.
 ὥς τὸν οἰόμενόν που ἀδευκέος ἔκτοθεν ἄτης
 εἶναι ἀριστήων αὐτῇ ὑπὸ νυκτὶ πέδησεν
 μαρνάμενον κείνοισι· πολεῖς δ' ἐπαρηγόνες ἄλλοι
 1040 ἔκταθεν· Ἡρακλῆς μὲν ἐνήρατο Τηλεκλῆα
 ἠδὲ Μεγαβρόντην· Σφόδριν δ' ἐνάριξεν Ἄκαστος·
 Πηλεὺς δὲ Ζέλυν εἵλεν ἀρηίθοόν τε Γέφυρον.
 αὐτὰρ ἐνυμελὴς Τελαμὼν Βασιλῆα κατέκτα.
 Ἴδας δ' αὖ Προμέα, Κλυτίος δ' Ὑάκινθον ἔφεφνεν,
 1045 Τυνδαρίδαι δ' ἄμφω Μεγαλοσσάκεα Φλογίον τε.
 Οἰνεΐδης δ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ἔλεν θρασὺν Ἴτυμονῆα
 ἠδὲ καὶ Ἀρτακέα, πρόμον ἀνδρῶν· οὗς ἔτι πάντας
 ἐνναεταὶ τιμαῖς ἡρώϊσι κυδαίνουσιν.
 οἱ δ' ἄλλοι εἷξαντες ὑπέτρεσαν, ἠύτε κίρκους
 1050 ὠκυπέτας ἀγεληδὸν ὑποτρέσσωσι πέλειαι.
 ἐς δὲ πύλας ὁμάδῳ πέσον ἀθρόοι· αἶψα δ' αὐτῆς
 πλῆτο πόλις στονόεντος ὑποτροπὴ πολέμοιο.
 ἠῶθεν δ' ὀλοὴν καὶ ἀμήχανον εἰσενόησαν

ἀμπλακίην ἄμφω· στυγερὸν δ' ἄχος εἶλεν ἰδόντας
 1055 ἦρωας Μινύας Αἰνίηιον υἱά παρροιθεν
 Κύζικον ἐν κονίησι καὶ αἵματι πεπηῶτα.
 ἦματα δὲ τρία πάντα γόων, τίλλοντό τε χαίτας
 αὐτοὶ ὁμῶς λαοὶ τε Δολιόνες. αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα
 τρὶς περὶ χαλκείοις σὺν τεύχεσι δινηθέντες
 1060 τύμβῳ ἐνεκτερέιξαν, ἐπειρήσαντό τ' ἀέθλων,
 ἦ θέμις, ἄμ πεδῖον λειμώνιον, ἐνθ' ἔτι νῦν περ
 ἀγκέχεται τόδε σῆμα καὶ ὀψιγόνοισιν ἰδέσθαι.
 οὐδὲ μὲν οὐδ' ἄλοχος Κλείτη φθιμένοιο λέλειπτο
 οὗ πόσιος μετόπισθε· κακῷ δ' ἐπὶ κύντερον ἄλλο
 1065 ἦνυσεν, ἀψαμένη βρόχον αὐχένι. τὴν δὲ καὶ αὐταὶ
 νύμφαι ἀποφθιμένην ἄλσῃίδες ὠδύραντο·
 καὶ οἱ ἀπὸ βλεφάρων ὅσα δάκρυα χεῦαν ἔραζε,
 πάντα τάγε κρήνην τεύξαν θεαί, ἦν καλέουσιν
 Κλείτην, δυστήνοιο περικλεές οὔνομα νύμφης.
 1070 αἰνότατον δὴ κεῖνο Δολιονίησι γυναιξὶν
 ἀνδράσι τ' ἐκ Διὸς ἡμαρ ἐπῆλυθεν· οὐδὲ γὰρ αὐτῶν
 ἔτλη τις πάσσασθαι ἐδητύος, οὐδ' ἐπὶ δηρὸν
 ἐξ ἀχέων ἔργοιο μυληφάτου ἐμνώνοντο·
 ἀλλ' αὐτως ἄφλεκτα διαζώεσκον ἔδοντες.
 1075 ἐνθ' ἔτι νῦν, εὖτ' ἂν σφιν ἐτήσια χύτλα χέωνται
 Κύζικον ἐνναίοντες Ἰάονες, ἔμπεδον αἰεὶ
 πανδήμοιο μύλης πελάνους ἐπαλετρεύουσιν.
 ἐκ δὲ τόθεν τρηχεῖαι ἀνῆρθησαν ἄελλαι
 ἦμαθ' ὁμοῦ νύκτας τε δωδέκα, τοὺς δὲ καταῦθι
 1080 ναυτίλλεσθαι ἔρυκον. ἐπιπλομένη δ' ἐνὶ νυκτὶ
 ὄλλοι μὲν ῥα πάρος δεδμημένοι εὐνάζοντο
 ὕπνῳ ἀριστῆες πύματον λάχος· αὐτὰρ Ἄκαστος
 Μόψος τ' Ἀμπυκίδης ἀδινὰ κνώσσοντας ἔρυντο.
 ἦ δ' ἄρ' ὑπὲρ ξανθοῖο καρήατος Αἰσονίδαο
 1085 πωτᾶτ' ἀλκυονὶς λιγυρῇ ὅπῃ θεσπίζουσα
 λῆξιν ὀρινομένων ἀνέμων· συνέηκε δὲ Μόψος
 ἀκταίης ὄρνιθος ἐναΐσιμον ὅσσαν ἀκούσας.
 καὶ τὴν μὲν θεὸς αὖτις ἀπέτραπεν, ἵζε δ' ὑπερθεῖν
 νηίου ἀφλάστοιο μετήορος αἶξασα.
 1090 τὸν δ' ὄγε κεκλιμένον μαλακοῖς ἐνὶ κώεσιν οἶδν.
 κινήσας ἀνέγειρε παρασχεδόν, ὥδέ τ' ἔειπεν·
 'Αἰσονίδη, χρεῖώ σε τόδ' ἱερὸν εἰσανιόντα
 Δινδύμου ὀκρίεντος εὐθρονον ἰλάξασθαι
 μητέρα συμπάντων μακάρων· λήξουσι δ' ἄελλαι
 1095 ζαχρηεῖς· τοίην γὰρ ἐγὼ νέον ὅσσαν ἄκουσα
 ἀλκυόνος ἀλῆης, ἣ τε κνώσσοντος ὑπερθεῖν
 σεῖο πέριξ τὰ ἕκαστα πιφασκομένη πεπότηται.

ἐκ γὰρ τῆς ἄνεμοί τε θάλασσά τε νειόθι τε θῶν
 πᾶσα πεπείρανται νιφόεν θ' ἔδος Οὐλύμποιο:
 1100 καὶ οἱ, ὅτ' ἐξ ὀρέων μέγαν οὐρανὸν εἰσαναβαίνειν,
 Ζεὺς αὐτὸς Κρονίδης ὑποχάζεται. ὥς δὲ καὶ ὄλλοι
 ἀθάνατοι μάκαρες δεινὴν θεὸν ἀμφιέπουσιν.
 ὥς φάτο· τῷ δ' ἀσπαστὸν ἔπος γένετ' εἰσαῖοντι.
 ὦρνυτο δ' ἐξ εὐνῆς κεχαρημένος· ὥρσε δ' ἐταίρους
 1105 πάντας ἐπισπέρχων, καὶ τέ σφισιν ἐγρομένοισιν
 Ἀμυκίδεω Μόψοιο θεοπροπίας ἀγόρευεν.
 αἶψα δὲ κουρότεροι μὲν ἀπὸ σταθμῶν ἐλάσαντες
 ἔνθεν ἐς αἰπεινὴν ἄναγον βόας οὔρεος ἄκρην.
 οἱ δ' ἄρα λυσάμενοι Ἱερῆς ἐκ πείσματα πέτρης
 1110 ἦρσαν ἐς λιμένα Θρηίκιον· ἂν δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ
 βαῖνον, παυροτέρους ἐτάρων ἐν νηὶ λιπόντες.
 τοῖσι δὲ Μακριάδες σκοπιαὶ καὶ πᾶσα περαιή
 Θρηικίης ἐνὶ χερσὶν ἑαῖς προφαίνεται· ἰδέσθαι·
 φαίνετο δ' ἠερόεν στόμα Βοσπόρου ἡδὲ κολῶναι
 1115 Μυσῖαι· ἐκ δ' ἐτέρης ποταμοῦ ρόος Αἰσῆποιο
 ἄστυ τε καὶ πεδῖον Νηπήιον Ἀδρηστείης.
 ἔσκε δὲ τι στιβαρὸν στύπος ἀμπέλου ἐντροφον ὕλη,
 πρόχην γεράνδρυν· τὸ μὲν ἔκταμον, ὄφρα πέλοιτο
 δαίμονος οὐρείης ἱερὸν βρέτας· ἔξεσε δ' Ἄργος
 1120 εὐκόσμως, καὶ δὴ μιν ἐπ' ὀκρίονεν κολωνῷ
 ἴδρυσαν φηγοῖσιν ἐπηρεφὲς ἀκροτάτησιν,
 αἷ ῥά τε πασάων πανυπέρταται ἐρρίζωνται.
 βωμόν δ' αὖ χέραδος παρενήνεον· ἀμφὶ δὲ φύλλοις
 στεψάμενοι δρυῖνοισι θυηπολίας ἐμέλοντο
 1125 μητέρα Δινδυμίνην πολυπότνιαν ἀγκαλέοντες,
 ἐνναέτιν Φρυγίης, Τιτίν θ' ἅμα Κύλληνόν τε,
 οἱ μούνοι πολέων μοιρηγέται ἡδὲ πάρεδροι
 μητέρος Ἰδαίης κεκλήαται, ὅσσοι ἔασιν
 δάκτυλοι Ἰδαῖοι Κρηταιέες, οὓς ποτε νύμφη
 1130 Ἀγχιάλῃ Δικταῖον ἀνὰ σπέος ἀμφοτέρησιν
 δραξαμένη γαίης Οἰαξίδος ἐβλάστησεν.
 πολλὰ δὲ τήνγε λιτῆσιν ἀποστρέψαι ἐριώλας
 Λισονίδης γουνάζετ' ἐπιλλείβων ἱεροῖσιν
 αἰθομένοις· ἄμυδις δὲ νέοι Ὀρφήος ἀνωγῇ
 1135 σκαίροντες βηταρμόν ἐνόπλιον ὠρχήσαντο,
 καὶ σάκεα ξιφέεσσιν ἐπέκτυπον, ὥς κεν ἰωὴ
 δύσφημος πλάζοιτο δι' ἠέρος, ἦν ἔτι λαοὶ
 κηδεῖν βασιλῆος ἀνέστενον. ἔνθεν ἐσαιεὶ
 ῥόμβῳ καὶ τυπάνῳ Ῥεῖην Φρύγες ἰλάσκονται.
 1140 ἡ δὲ που εὐαγέεσσιν ἐπὶ φρένα θῆκε θυηλαῖς
 ἀνταῖα δαίμων· τὰ δ' εἰκότα σήματ' ἔγεντο.

δένδρεα μὲν καρπὸν χέον ἄσπετον, ἀμφὶ δὲ ποσσὶν
 αὐτομάτῃ φύε γαῖα τερεῖνης ἄνθεα ποίης.
 θήρες δ' εἰλυοὺς τε κατὰ ξυλόχους τε λιπόντες
 1145 οὐρῇσιν σαίνοντες ἐπήλυθον. ἡ δὲ καὶ ἄλλο
 θῆκε τέρας· ἐπεὶ οὔτι παροίτερον ὕδατι νᾶεν
 Δίνδυμον· ἀλλὰ σφιν τότε' ἀνέβραχε διψάδος αὐτῶς
 ἐκ κορυφῆς ἄλληκτον· Ἰησονίην δ' ἐνέπουσιν
 κεῖνο ποτὸν κρήνην περυναίεται ἄνδρες ὅπισσῶ.
 1150 καὶ τότε μὲν δαῖτ' ἀμφὶ θεᾶς θέσαν οὔρεσιν Ἄρκτων,
 μέλποντες Ῥεῖην πολυπότνιαν· αὐτὰρ ἐς ἣν
 ληξάντων ἀνέμων νῆσον λίπον εἰρεσίησιν.
 ἐνθ' ἔρις ἄνδρα ἕκαστον ἀριστήων ὀρόθουνεν,
 ὅστις ἀπολλήξειε πανύστατος. ἀμφὶ γὰρ αἰθήρ
 1155 νήνεμος ἐστόρεσεν δίνας, κατὰ δ' εὖνασε πόντον.
 οἱ δὲ γαληναῖη πίσυνοι ἐλάασκον ἐπιπρὸ
 νῆα βίη· δ' οὐ κε διεξ ἄλὸς αἴσσουσιν
 οὐδὲ Ποσειδάωνος ἀελλόποδες κίχον ἵπποι.
 ἔμπης δ' ἐγρομένοιο σάλου ζαχρηεσιν αὔραις,
 1160 αἱ νέον ἐκ ποταμῶν ὑπὸ δείελον ἡερέθονται,
 τειρόμενοι καὶ δὴ μετελώφεον· αὐτὰρ ὁ τούσγε
 πασσυδίῃ μογέοντας ἐφέλκετο κάρτεϊ χειρῶν
 Ἥρακλῆς, ἐτίνασσε δ' ἀρηότα δούρατα νηός.
 ἀλλ' ὅτε δὴ Μυσῶν λεληιμένοι ἠπειροιο
 1165 Ῥυνδακίδας προχοὰς μέγα τ' ἡρίον Λιγαίωνος
 τυτθὸν ὑπὲκ Φρυγίης παρεμέτρεον εἰσορόωντες,
 δὴ τότε' ἀνοχλίζων τετρηχότος οἴδατος ὄλκοις
 μεσσοθέν ἄξεν ἐρετμόν. ἀτὰρ τρύφος ἄλλο μὲν αὐτὸς
 ἄμφω χερσὶν ἔχων πέσε δόχμιος, ἄλλο δὲ πόντος
 1170 κλύζε παλιπροθίοισι φέρων. ἀνὰ δ' ἔζετο σιγῇ
 παπταίνων· χεῖρες γὰρ ἀήθεον ἡρεμέουσαι.
 ἦμος δ' ἀγρόθεν εἴσι φυτοσκάφος ἦ τις ἀροτρεὺς
 ἀσπασίως εἰς αὐλιν ἐήν, δόρποιο χατίζων,
 αὐτοῦ δ' ἐν προμολῇ τετρυμένα γούνατ' ἔκαμψεν
 1175 αὐσταλέος κονίησι, περιτριβέας δέ τε χεῖρας
 εἰσορόων κακὰ πολλὰ ἐπὶ ἡρήσατο γαστρί·
 τῆμος ἄρ' οἷγ' ἀφίκοντο Κιανίδος ἦθεα γαίης
 ἀμφ' Ἀργανθώνειον ὄρος προχοὰς τε Κίοιο.
 τοὺς μὲν ἐυξείνως Μυσοὶ φιλότῃτι κιόντας
 1180 δειδέχατ', ἐνναέται κείνης χθονός, ἡἰά τέ σφιν
 μῆλ' αὖτε δευομένοις μέθυ τ' ἄσπετον ἐγγυάλιξαν.
 ἐνθα δ' ἐπειθ' οἱ μὲν ξύλα κάγκανα, τοὶ δὲ λεχαῖην
 φυλλάδα λειμώνων φέρον ἄσπετον ἀμήσαντες,
 στόρνυσθαι· τοὶ δ' ἀμφὶ πυρήια δινεύεσκον·
 1185 οἱ δ' οἶνον κρητῆρσι κέρων, πονέοντο τε δαῖτα,

Ἐκβασίῳ ῥέξαντες ὑπὸ κνέφας Ἀπόλλωνι.
αὐτὰρ ὁ δαίνυσθαι ἐτάροις οἷς εὖ ἐπιτείλας
βῆ ῥ' ἵμεν εἰς ὕλην υἱὸς Διός, ὥς κεν ἐρετμὸν
οἷ αὐτῷ φθαίῃ καταχείριον ἐντύνασθαι.

1190 εὐρεν ἔπειτ' ἐλάτην ἀλαλήμενος, οὔτε τι πολλοῖς
ἄχθομένην ὄζοις, οὐδὲ μέγα τηλεθώωσαν,
ἄλλ' οἷον ταναῆς ἔρνος πέλει αἰγείροιο:

τόσση ὁμῶς μῆκός τε καὶ ἐς πάχος ἦεν ἰδέσθαι.
ρίμφα δ' ὀιστοδόκην μὲν ἐπὶ χθονὶ θῆκε φαρέτρην

1195 αὐτοῖσιν τόξοισιν, ἔδω δ' ἀπὸ δέρμα λέοντος.
τὴν δ' ὄγε χαλκοβαρεῖ ῥοπάλῳ δαπέδοιο τινάξας
νειόθεν ἀμφοτέρησι περὶ στύπος ἔλλαβε χερσίν,
ἠγορήε πίσυνος· ἐν δὲ πλατὺν ὦμον ἔρεισεν
εὖ διαβάς· πεδόθεν δὲ βαθύρριζόν περ ἐοῦσαν

1200 προσφὺς ἐξήειρε σὺν αὐτοῖς ἔχμασι γαίης.
ὥς δ' ὅταν ἀπροφάτως ἰστόν νεός, εὐτε μάλιστα
χειμερὶ ὀλοοῖο δύσιν πέλει Ὠρίωνος,
ὕψοθεν ἐμπλήξασα θοῇ ἀνέμοιο κατὰίξ
αὐτοῖσι σφίηνεσσιν ὑπὲκ προτόνων ἐρύσσηται:

1205 ὥς ὄγε τὴν ἤειρεν. ὁμοῦ δ' ἀνὰ τόξα καὶ ἰοὺς
δέρμα θ' ἐλὼν ῥοπαλόν τε παλίσσυτος ὥρτο νέεσθαι.
τόφρα δ' ὕλας χαλκῆ σὺν κάλπιδι νόσφιν ὁμίλῳ
δίζητο κρήνης ἱερὸν ῥόον, ὥς κέ οἱ ὕδωρ
φθαίῃ ἀφυσσάμενος ποτιδόρπιον, ἄλλα τε πάντα

1210 ὀτραλέως κατὰ κόσμον ἐπαρτίσσειεν ἰόντι.
δὴ γάρ μιν τοίοισιν ἐν ἤθεσιν αὐτὸς ἔφερβεν,
νηπίαχον τὰ πρῶτα δόμων ἐκ πατρὸς ἀπούρας,
δίου Θειοδάμαντος, ὃν ἐν Δρυόπεσσιν ἔπεφνεν
νηλειῶς, βοὸς ἀμφὶ γεωμόρου ἀντιώοντα.

1215 ἦτοι ὁ μὲν νειοῖο γῆρας τέμνεσκεν ἀρότρῳ
Θειοδάμας ἀνὴρ βεβολημένος· αὐτὰρ ὁ τόνγε
βοῦν ἀρότην ἠνωγε παρασχέμεν οὐκ ἐθέλοντα.
ἶετο γὰρ πρόφασιν πολέμου Δρυόπεσσι βολέσθαι
λευγαλέην, ἐπεὶ οὔτι δίκης ἀλέγοντες ἔναιον.

1220 ἀλλὰ τὰ μὲν τηλοῦ κεν ἀποπλάγξειεν αἰοιδῆς.
αἶψα δ' ὄγε κρήνην μετεκίαθεν, ἣν καλέουσιν
πηγάς ἀγχίγυοι περυναίεται. οἱ δὲ που ἄρτι
νυμφάων ἴσταντο χοροί· μέλε γάρ σφισι πάσαις,
ὄσσαι κεῖσ' ἐρατὸν νύμφαι ρίον ἀμφενέμοντο,

1225 Ἄρτεμιν ἐννυχίῃσιν αἰεὶ μέλπεσθαι αἰοιδαῖς.
αἱ μὲν, ὅσαι σκοπιάς ὀρέων λάχον ἢ καὶ ἐναῦλους,
αἶγε μὲν ὑλήωροι ἀπόπροθεν ἐστιχώοντο,
ἢ δὲ νέον κρήνης ἀνεδύετο καλλινάοιο
νύμφη ἐφνυδατὴ· τὸν δὲ σχεδὸν εἰσενόησεν

1230 κάλλει καὶ γλυκερῇσιν ἐρευθόμενον χαρίτεσσιν.
 πρὸς γάρ οἱ διχόμηνις ἀπ' αἰθέρος ἀνγάζουσα
 βάλλε σελιναίη. τὴν δὲ φρένας ἐπτοίησεν
 Κύπρις, ἀμηχανίη δὲ μόλις συναγείρατο θυμόν.
 αὐτὰρ ὄγ' ὥς τὰ πρῶτα ῥόφῳ ἐνὶ κάλπιν ἔρεισεν
 1235 λέχρις ἐπιχριμφθείς, περὶ δ' ἄσπετον ἔβραχεν ὕδωρ
 χαλκὸν ἐς ἠχήεντα φορεύμενον, αὐτίκα δ' ἤγε
 λαιὸν μὲν καθύπερθεν ἐπ' αὐχένος ἄνθετο πῆχυν
 κύσσαι ἐπιθύουσα τέρεν στόμα· δεξιτερῇ δὲ
 ἀγκῶν' ἔσπασε χειρί, μέσῃ δ' ἐνικάββαλε δίνῃ.
 1240 τοῦ δ' ἥρωος ἰάχοντος ἐπέκλυεν οἶος ἐταίρων
 Εἰλατίδης Πολύφημος, ἰὼν προτέρωσε κελεύθου,
 δέκτο γὰρ Ἡρακλῆα πελώριον, ὀππόθ' ἵκοιτο.
 βῆ δὲ μεταίξας Πηγέων σχεδόν, ἥντε τις θήρ
 ἄγριος, ὃν ῥά τε γῆρυς ἀπόπροθεν ἵκετο μήλων,
 1245 λιμῶ δ' αἰθόμενος μετανίσσεται, οὐδ' ἐπέκυρσεν
 ποίμνησιν· πρὸ γὰρ αὐτοὶ ἐνὶ σταθμοῖσι νομῆες
 ἔλσαν· ὁ δὲ στενάχων βρέμει ἄσπετον, ὄφρα κάμῃσιν·
 ὥς τότε ἄρ' Εἰλατίδης μεγάλ' ἔστενεν, ἀμφὶ δὲ χῶρον
 φοῖτα κεκληγῶς· μελέῃ δέ οἱ ἔπλετο φωνή.
 1250 αἶψα δ' ἐρυσσάμενος μέγα φάσγανον ὥρτο δίεσθαι,
 μήπως ἢ θήρεσσιν ἔλωρ πέλοι, ἠέ μιν ἄνδρες
 μοῦνον ἐόντ' ἐλόχησαν, ἄγουσι δὲ ληίδ' ἐτοίμην.
 ἐνθ' αὐτῷ ξύμβλητο κατὰ στίβον Ἡρακλῆι
 γυμνὸν ἐπαῖσσων παλάμῃ ξίφος· εὖ δὲ μιν ἔγνω
 1255 σπερχόμενον μετὰ νῆα διὰ κνέφας. αὐτίκα δ' ἄτην
 ἔκφατο λευγαλέην, βεβαρημένος ἄσθματι θυμόν·
 'δαιμόνιε, στυγερόν τοι ἄχος πάμπρωτος ἐνίστω.
 οὐ γὰρ Ὕλας κρήνηνδε κιὼν σόος αὖτις ἰκάνει.
 ἀλλὰ ἐλπιστῆρες ἐνιχρίμψαντες ἄγουσιν,
 1260 ἢ θῆρες σίνονται· ἐγὼ δ' ἰάχοντος ἄκουσα.'
 ὥς φάτο· τῷ δ' αἰόντι κατὰ κροτάφων ἅλις ἰδρῶς
 κήκιε, ἐν δὲ κελαινὸν ὑπὸ σπλάγχνοις ζέεν αἷμα.
 χωόμενος δ' ἐλάτην χαμάδις βάλεν, ἐς δὲ κέλευθον
 τὴν θέεν, ἣ πόδες αὐτὸν ὑπέκφερον αἰσσοντα.
 1265 ὥς δ' ὅτε τίς τε μύωπι τετυμμένος ἔσσυτο ταῦρος
 πίσεια τε προλιπὼν καὶ ἐλεσπίδας, οὐδὲ νομῆων
 οὐδ' ἀγέλης ὄθεται, πρήσσει δ' ὁδόν, ἄλλοτ' ἄπαυστος,
 ἄλλοτε δ' ἰστάμενος, καὶ ἀνὰ πλατὺν αὐχέν' ἀείρων
 ἵησιν μύκημα, κακῶ βεβολημένος οἴστρω·
 1270 ὥς ὅγε μαιμῶων ὅτε μὲν θοὰ γούνατ' ἐπαλλεν
 συνεχέως, ὅτε δ' αὖτε μεταλλήγων καμάτοιο
 τῆλε διαπρύσιον μεγάλη βοάσκεν αὐτῇ.
 αὐτίκα δ' ἀκροτάτας ὑπερέσχεθεν ἄκριας ἀστήρ

ἦϋος, πνοιαὶ δὲ κατήλυθον· ὦκα δὲ Τῖφους
 1275 ἔσβαίνειν ὀρόθυνεν, ἐπαύρεσθαί τ' ἀνέμοιο.
 οἱ δ' εἴσβαινον ἄφαρ λελημένοι· ὕψι δὲ νηδὺς
 εὐναίας ἐρύσαντες ἀνεκρούσαντο κάλῳας.
 κυρτώθη δ' ἀνέμῳ λῖνα μεσσοῦθι, τῆλε δ' ἅπ' ἀκτῆς
 γηθόσυνοι φορέοντο παραι Ποσιδῆιον ἄκρην.
 1280 ἦμος δ' οὐρανόθεν χαροπὴ ὑπολάμπεται ἠὼς
 ἐκ περάτης ἀνιοῦσα, διαγλαύσσουσι δ' ἀταρποί,
 καὶ πεδία δροσόεντα φαεινῇ λάμπεται αἴγλῃ,
 τῆμος τοῦσγ' ἐνόησαν αἰδρεῖνσι λιπόντες.
 ἐν δὲ σφιν κρατερόν νεῖκος πέσεν, ἐν δὲ κολῳὸς
 1285 ἄσπετος, εἰ τὸν ἄριστον ἀποπρολιπόντες ἔβησαν
 σφωιτέρων ἐτάρων. ὁ δ' ἀμηχανίησιν ἀτυχεῖς
 οὔτε τι τοῖον ἔπος μετεφώνεεν, οὔτε τι τοῖον
 Αἰσονίδης· ἀλλ' ἦστο βαρεῖν νειόθεν ἄτη
 θυμὸν ἔδων· Τελαμῶνα δ' ἔλεν χόλος, ὧδ' ἑῖπεν·
 1290 'ἦσ' αὐτῶς εὐκηλος, ἐπεὶ τοι ἄρμενον ἦεν
 Ἡρακλῆα λιπεῖν· σέο δ' ἔκτοθι μῆτις ὄρωρεν,
 ὄφρα τὸ κείνου κῦδος ἂν' Ἑλλάδα μὴ σε καλύψῃ,
 αἶ κε θεοὶ δώωσιν ὑπότροπον οἴκαδε νόστον.
 ἀλλὰ τί μύθων ἦδος; ἐπεὶ καὶ νόσφιν ἐταίρων
 1295 εἴμι τεῶν, οἳ τόνγε δόλον συνετεκλήναντο.'
 ἦ, καὶ ἐς Ἀγνιάδην Τῖφυν θόρε· τῷ δέ οἱ ὅσσε
 ὄστλιγγες μαλεροῖο πυρὸς ὥς ἰνδάλλοντο.
 καὶ νῦ κεν ἄψ ὀπίσω Μυσῶν ἐπὶ γαῖαν ἵκοντο
 λαῖτμα βησάμενοι ἀνέμου τ' ἄλληκτον ἰωήν,
 1300 εἰ μὴ Θρηκίοιο δῶν νῆες Βορέας
 Αἰακίδην χαλεποῖσιν ἐρητύεσκον ἔπεσσιν,
 σχέτλιοι· ἦ τέ σφιν στυγερὴ τίσις ἔπλετ' ὀπίσσω
 χερσὶν ὑφ' Ἡρακλῆος, ὃ μιν δίξεσθαι ἔρुकον.
 ἄθλων γὰρ Πελῖας δεδουπότος ἄψ ἀνιόντας
 1305 τήνῳ ἐν ἀμφιρύτῃ πέφνεν, καὶ ἀμήσατο γαῖαν
 ἄμφ' αὐτοῖς, στήλας τε δῶν καθύπερθεν ἔτευξεν,
 ὧν ἐτέρη, θάμβος περιώσιον ἀνδράσι λεύσσειν,
 κίνυται ἠχήμεντος ὑπὸ πνοιῇ βορέας.
 καὶ τὰ μὲν ὥς ἡμελλε μετὰ χρόνον ἐκτελέεσθαι.
 1310 τοῖσιν δὲ Γλαῦκος βρυχίης ἀλὸς ἐξεφάνθη,
 Νηρῆος θεῖοιο πολυφράδμων ὑποφήτης·
 ὕψι δὲ λαχνῆεν τε κάρη καὶ στήθε' αἰείρας
 νειόθεν ἐκ λαγόνων στιβαρῇ ἐπορέξατο χειρὶ
 νηίου ὀλκαίοιο, καὶ ἴαχεν ἐσσυμένοισιν·
 1315 'τίποτε παρὲκ μέγαλοιο Διὸς μενεαίνετε βουλήν
 Αἰήτεω πτολίεθρον ἄγειν θρασὺν Ἡρακλῆα;
 Ἄργεῖ οἱ μοῖρ' ἐστὶν ἀτασθάλῳ Εὐρυσθεῖ

ἐκπλήσσαι μογέοντα δυνώδεκα πάντας ἀέθλους,
ναίειν δ' ἀθανάτοισι συνέστιον, εἴ κ' ἔτι παύρους
1320 ἐξάνυση: τῷ μὴ τι ποθὴ κείνοιο πελέσθω.
αὐτῶς δ' αὖ Πολύφημον ἐπὶ προχοῇσι Κίοιο
πέπρωται Μυσοῖσι περικλεῆς ἄστν καμόντα
μοῖραν ἀναπλήσειν Χαλύβων ἐν ἀπείρονι γαίῃ.
αὐτὰρ Ὕλαν φιλότῃ θεὰ ποιήσατο νύμφη
1325 ὃν πόσιν, οἷό περ οὔνεκ' ἀποπλαγχθέντες ἔλειφθεν.'
ἦ, καὶ κῦμ' ἀλίαστον ἐφέσσατο νειόθι δύψας:
ἀμφὶ δέ οἱ δίνῃσι κυκώμενον ἄφρεεν ὕδωρ
πορφύρεον, κοίλῃν δὲ διεξ ἄλως ἔκλυσε νῆα.
γῆθησαν δ' ἥρωες: ὁ δ' ἐσσυμένως ἐβεβήκει
1330 Αἰακίδης Τελαμὼν ἐς Ἴησωνα, χεῖρα δὲ χειρὶ
ἄκρην ἀμφιβαλὼν προσπτόζατο, φώνησέν τε:
' Αἰσονίδη, μὴ μοί τι χολώσσαι, ἀφραδίῃσιν
εἴ τί περ ἀσάμην: πέρι γάρ μ' ἄχος εἶλεν ἐνισπεῖν
μῦθον ὑπερφιάλόν τε καὶ ἄσχετον, ἀλλ' ἀνέμοισιν
1335 δώομεν ἀμπλακίην, ὥς καὶ πάρος εὐμενέοντες.'
τὸν δ' αὖτ' Αἴσωνος υἱὸς ἐπιφραδέως προσέειπεν:
' ὦ πέπον, ἦ μάλα δὴ με κακῷ ἐκυδάσσαο μῦθω,
φᾶς ἐνὶ τοῖσιν ἅπασιν ἐννέος ἀνδρὸς ἀλείπην
ἔμμεναι. ἀλλ' οὐ θὴν τοι ἀδευκέα μῆνιν ἀέξω,
1340 πρὶν περ ἀνιθεῖς: ἐπεὶ οὐ περὶ πώεσι μῆλων,
οὐδὲ περὶ κτεάτεσσι χαλεψάμενος μενέηνας,
ἀλλ' ἐτάρου περὶ φωτός. ἔολπα δέ τοι σὲ καὶ ἄλλω
ἀμφ' ἐμεῦ, εἰ τοιόνδε πέλοι ποτέ, δηρίσασθαι.'
ἦ ῥα, καὶ ἀρθμηθέντες, ὅπῃ πάρος, ἐδριόωντο.
1345 τῷ δὲ Διὸς βουλῇσιν, ὁ μὲν Μυσοῖσι βαλέσθαι
μέλλεν ἐπώννυμον ἄστν πολισσάμενος ποταμοῖο
Εἰλατίδης Πολύφημος: ὁ δ' Εὐρυσθῆος ἀέθλους
αὐτὶς ἰὼν πονέεσθαι. ἐπηπείλησε δὲ γαῖαν
Μυσίδ' ἀναστήσειν αὐτοσχεδόν, ὅππότε μὴ οἱ
1350 ἦ ζωοῦ εὗροιεν Ὕλα μόρον, ἥ θ' ἀνόντος.
τοῖο δὲ ῥύσι' ὅπασσαν ἀποκρίναντες ἀρίστους
υἰέας ἐκ δήμοιο, καὶ ὄρκια ποιήσαντο,
μήποτε μαστεύοντες ἀπολλήξειν καμάτοιο.
τύνεκεν εἰσέτι νῦν περ Ὕλαν ἐρέουσι Κιανοί,
1355 κοῦρον Θειοδάμαντος, ἐυκτιμένης τε μέλονται
Τρηχῖνος. δὴ γάρ ῥα κατ' αὐτόθι νάσσατο παῖδας,
οὓς οἱ ῥύσια κείθεν ἐπιπροέηκαν ἄγεσθαι.
Νηῦν δὲ πανημερίην ἄνεμος φέρε νυκτὶ τε πάσῃ
λάβρος ἐπιπνείων: ἀτὰρ οὐδ' ἐπὶ τυτθὸν ἤτο
1360 ἠοῦς τελλομένης, οἱ δὲ χθονὸς εἰσανέχουσιν
ἀκτὴν ἐκ κόλποιο μάλ' εὐρεῖαν ἐσιδέσθαι

φρασσαμενοι, κώπησιν ἅμ' ἡελίῳ ἐπέκελσαν

BOOK II.

ἔνθα δ' ἔσαν σταθμοὶ τε βοῶν αὐλὶς τ' Ἀμύκοιο,
Βεβρύκων βασιλῆος ἀγήνορος, ὃν ποτε νύμφη
τίκτε Ποσειδάωνι Γενεθλίῳ εὐνηθεῖσα
Βιθυνὶς Μελίη, ὑπεροπληέστατον ἀνδρῶν:
5 ὅς τ' ἐπὶ καὶ ξεῖνοισιν ἀεικέα θεσμὸν ἔθηκεν,
μήτιν' ἀποστείχειν, πρὶν πειρήσασθαι ἐοῖο
πυγμαχίης: πολέας δὲ περικτιόνων ἐδάϊζεν.
καὶ δὲ τότε προτὶ νῆα κιών, χρειώ μιν ἐρέσθαι
ναυτιλίας, οἳ τ' εἶεν, ὑπερβασίησιν ἄτισσεν,
10 τοῖον δ' ἐν πάντεσσι παρασχεδὸν ἔκφατο μῦθον:
'Κέκλυθ', ἀλίπλαγκτοι, τάπερ ἴδμεναι ὕμιν ἔοικεν.
οὔτινα θέσμιόν ἐστιν ἀφορμηθέντα νέεσθαι
ἀνδρῶν ὀθνείων, ὅς κεν Βέβρυξι πελάσση,
πρὶν χεῖρεσσιν ἐμῇσιν ἐὰς ἀνὰ χεῖρας ἀεῖραι.
15 τῷ καὶ μοι τὸν ἄριστον ἀποκριδὸν οἶον ὁμίλου
πυγμαχίῃ στήσασθε καταυτόθι δηρινθῆναι.
εἰ δ' ἂν ἀπληγέοντες ἐμὰς πατέοιτε θέμιστας,
ἧ κέν τις στυγερώς κρατερὴ ἐπιέψεται' ἀνάγκη.'
ἧ ῥα μέγα φρονέων: τοὺς δ' ἄγριος εἰσαΐοντας
20 εἴλε χόλος: περὶ δ' αὖ Πολυδεύκεα τύψεν ὁμοκλή
αἶψα δ' ἑὸν ἐτάρων πρόμος ἵστατο, φώνησέν τε:
'ἴσχεο νῦν, μηδ' ἄμμι κακὴν, ὅτις εὖχεται εἶναι,
φαῖνε βίην: θεσμοῖς γὰρ ὑπεῖζομεν, ὥς ἀγορευεῖς.
αὐτὸς ἐκὼν ἤδη τοι ὑπίσχομαι ἀντιάσθαι.'
25 ὥς φάτ' ἀπληγέως: ὁ δ' ἐσέδρακεν ὄμμαθ' ἐλίξας,
ᾧστε λέων ὑπ' ἄκοντι τετυμμένος, ὃν τ' ἐν ὄρεσιν
ἀνέρες ἀμφιπέπονται: ὁ δ' ἰλλόμενός περ ὁμίλω
τῶν μὲν ἔτ' οὐκ ἀλέγει, ἐπὶ δ' ὄσσεται οἰόθεν οἶον
ἄνδρα τόν, ὅς μιν ἔτυψε παροίτατος, οὐδ' ἐδάμασσεν.
30 ἔνθ' ἀπὸ Τυνδαρίδης μὲν εὐστιπτον θέτο φᾶρος
λεπταλέον, τό ῥα οἳ τις ἐὼν ξεινήιον εἶναι
ᾧπασε Λημνιάδων: ὁ δ' ἐρεμνὴν δίπτυχα λῶπην
αὐτῇσιν περόνησι καλαύροπά τε τρηχεῖαν
κάββαλε, τὴν φορέεσκεν, ὀριτρεφὲς κοτίνιοι.
35 αὐτίκα δ' ἐγγύθι χῶρον ἐαδότα παπτήναντες
ἶζον ἐοὺς δίχα πάντας ἐνὶ ψαμάθοισιν ἐταίρους,
οὐδέμας, οὐδὲ φυὴν ἐναλίγκιοι εἰσοράσθαι.
ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν ἦ ὀλοοῖτο Τυφώεος, ἥ ἐ καὶ αὐτῆς
γαίης εἶναι ἔικτο πέλωρ τέκος, οἷα πάροιθεν
40 χωομένη Διὶ τίκτεν: ὁ δ' οὐρανίῳ ἀτάλαντος
ἀστέρι Τυνδαρίδης, οὔπερ κάλλισται ἔασιν

ἐσπερίην διὰ νύκτα φαεινομένου ἀμαρυγαί.
 τοῖος ἦν Διὸς υἱός, ἔτι χνοάοντας ἰούλους
 ἀντέλλων, ἔτι φαιδρὸς ἐν ὄμμασιν. ἀλλὰ οἱ ἀλκῇ
 45 καὶ μένος ἤυτε θηρὸς ἀέξετο: πῆλε δὲ χεῖρας
 πειράζων, εἶθ' ὥς πρὶν ἐντροχάλοι φορέονται,
 μηδ' ἄμυδις καμάτῳ τε καὶ εἰρεσίῃ βαρύθοιεν
 οὐ μὲν αὐτ' Ἄμυκος πειρήσατο: σῖγα δ' ἄπωθεν
 ἐστηώς εἰς αὐτὸν ἔχ' ὄμματα, καὶ οἱ ὀρέχθει
 50 θυμὸς ἐλδομένῳ στηθέων ἐξ αἵμα κεδάσσαι.
 τοῖσι δὲ μεσσηγὺς θεράπων Ἀμύκοιο Λυκωρεὺς
 θῆκε πάροιθε ποδῶν δοιοὺς ἐκότερθεν ἱμάντας
 ὦμούς, ἀζαλέους, περὶ δ' οἷγ' ἔσαν ἐσκληῶτες.
 αὐτὰρ ὁ τόνγ' ἐπέεσσιν ὑπερφιάλουσι μετηύδα:
 55 'τῶνδ' ἐ τοι ὄν κ' ἐθέλησθα, πάλου ἄτερ ἐγγυαλίζω
 αὐτὸς ἐκὼν, ἵνα μὴ μοι ἀτέμβηαι μετόπισθεν.
 ἀλλὰ βάλευ περὶ χειρί: δαεῖς δέ κεν ἄλλω ἐνίσποις,
 ὅσσον ἐγὼ ῥινούς τε βοῶν περίεμι ταμέσθαι
 ἀζαλέας, ἀνδρῶν τε παρηίδας αἵματι φύρσαι.'
 60 ὣς ἔφατ': αὐτὰρ ὅγ' οὐτι παραβλήδην ἐρίδηνεν.
 ἦκα δὲ μειδήσας, οἷ οἱ παρὰ ποσσὶν ἔκειντο,
 τοὺς ἔλεν ἀπροφάτως: τοῦ δ' ἀντίος ἦλυθε Κάστωρ
 ἠδὲ Βιαντιάδης Ταλαὸς μέγας: ὦκα δ' ἱμάντας
 ἀμφέδεον, μάλα πολλὰ παρηγορέοντες ἐς ἀλκὴν.
 65 τῷ δ' αὐτ' Ἀρητὸς τε καὶ Ὀρνυτος, οὐδέ τι ἦδειν
 νήπιοι ὕστατα κεῖνα κακῇ δῆσαντες ἐν αἴσῃ.
 οἱ δ' ἐπεὶ οὖν ἱμάσι διασταδὸν ἠρτύναντο,
 αὐτίκ' ἀνασχόμενοι ῥεθέων προπάροιθε βαρείας
 χεῖρας, ἐπ' ἀλλήλοισι μένος φέρον ἀντιόωντες.
 70 ἔνθα δὲ Βεβρύκων μὲν ἄναξ, ἃ τε κῦμα θαλάσσης
 τρηχὺ θοὴν ἐπὶ νῆα κορύσσεται, ἡ δ' ὑπὸ τυτθὸν
 ἰδρεῖη πυκινόιο κυβερνητῆρος ἀλύσκει,
 ἱεμένου φορέεσθαι ἔσω τοίχοιο κλύδωνος,
 ὥς ὅγε Τυνδαρίδην φοβέων ἔπετ', οὐδέ μιν εἶα
 75 δηθύνειν. ὁ δ' ἄρ' αἰὲν ἀνούτατος ἦν διὰ μῆτιν
 αἴσσουντ' ἀλέεινεν: ἀπηνέα δ' αἶψα νοήσας
 πυγμαχίην, ἣ κάρτος ἀάατος, ἣ τε χερείων,
 στῆ ῥ' ἄμοτον καὶ χερσὶν ἐναντία χεῖρας ἔμειξεν.
 ὥς δ' ὅτε νῆα δοῦρα θοοῖς ἀντίζοα γόμοις
 80 ἀνέρες ὕληουργοὶ ἐπιβλήδην ἐλάοντες
 θείνωσι σφύρησιν, ἐπ' ἄλλῳ δ' ἄλλος ἄηται
 δοῦπος ἄδην: ὥς τοῖσι παρηιά τ' ἀμφοτέρωθεν
 καὶ γένυες κτύπεον: βρυχή δ' ὑπετέλλετ' ὀδόντων
 ἄσπετος, οὐδ' ἔλληξαν ἐπισταδὸν οὐτάζοντες,
 85 ἔστε περ οὐλοδὸν ἄσθμα καὶ ἀμφοτέρους ἐδάμασσαν.

στάντε δὲ βαιὸν ἄπωθεν ἄπωμόρξαντο μετώπων
ἰδρῶ ἄλιν, καματηρὸν αὐτμένα φυσιόωντε.
ἂψ δ' αὖτις συνόρουσαν ἐναντίοι, ἥντε ταύρω
φορβάδος ἀμφὶ βοδὸς κεκοτηότε δηριάσθον.
90 ἔνθα δ' ἔπειτ' Ἄμυκος μὲν ἐπ' ἀκροτάτοισιν ἄερθείς,
βουτύπος οἴα, πόδεσσι τανύσσατο, κὰδ δὲ βαρεῖαν
χεῖρ' ἐπὶ οἷ πελέμιζεν· ὁ δ' αἰξάντος ὑπέστη,
κρᾶτα παρακλίνας, ὦμω δ' ἀνεδέξατο πῆχυν
τυτθόν· ὁ δ' ἄγχ' αὐτοῖο παρέκ γόνυ γουνὸς ἀμσίβων
95 κόψε μεταίγδην ὑπὲρ οὔατος, ὅστέα δ' εἶσω
ῥῆξεν· ὁ δ' ἄμφ' ὀδύνη γνῦξ ἥριπεν· οἱ δ' ἰάχισαν
ἥρωες Μινύαι· τοῦ δ' ἀθρόος ἔκχυτο θυμός.
οὐδ' ἄρα Βέβρυκες ἄνδρες ἀφείδισαν βασιλῆος·
ἀλλ' ἄμυδις κορύνας ἀζηχέας ἠδὲ σιγύννους
100 ἰθὺς ἀνασχόμενοι Πολυδεύκεος ἀντιάσκον.
τοῦ δὲ πάρος κολεῶν εὐήκεα φάσαν' ἐταῖροι
ἔσταν ἐρυσσάμενοι. πρῶτός γε μὲν ἀνέρα Κάστωρ
ἦλασ' ἐπεσσύμενον κεφαλῆς ὕπερ· ἡ δ' ἐκάτερθεν
ἐνθα καὶ ἐνθ' ὥμοισιν ἐπ' ἀμφοτέροις ἐκεάσθη.
105 αὐτὸς δ' Ἴτυμονῆα πελώριον ἠδὲ Μίμαντα,
τὸν μὲν ὑπὸ στέρνοιο θοῶ ποδὶ λάξ ἐπορούσας
πλῆξε, καὶ ἐν κονίησι βάλεν· τοῦ δ' ἄσπον ἰόντος
δεξιτερῇ σκαιῆς ὑπὲρ ὀφρύος ἤλασε χεῖρὶ,
δρῦνε δέ οἱ βλέφαρον, γυμνῇ δ' ὑπελείπετ' ὀπωπή.
110 Ὠρεΐδης δ' Ἀμύκοιο βίην ὑέροπλος ὀπάων
οὔτα Βιαντιάδαο κατὰ λαπάρην Ταλαοῖο,
ἀλλὰ μιν οὐ κατέπεφνεν, ὅσον δ' ἐπὶ δέρματι μόνον
νηδυῖων ἄψαυστος ὑπὸ ζώνην θόρε χαλκός.
αὐτὼς δ' Ἄρητος μενεδήιον Εὐρύτου νῆα
115 Ἴφιτον ἀζαλέη κορύνη στυφέλιξεν ἐλάσσας,
οὔπω κηρὶ κακῇ πεπρωμένον· ἦ τάχ' ἔμελλεν
αὐτὸς δηώσεσθαι ὑπὸ ξίφει Κλυτίοιο.
καὶ τότε ἄρ' Ἀγκαῖος Λυκοόργιοι θρασὺς υἱὸς
αἶψα μάλ' ἀντεταγὼν πέλεκυν μέγαν ἠδὲ κελαινὸν
120 ἄρκτου προσχόμενος σκαιῇ δέρος ἐνθορε μέσσω
ἐμμεμαῶς Βέβρυξιν· ὁμοῦ δέ οἱ ἐσσεύοντο
Αἰακίδαί, σὺν δέ σφιν ἀρήιος ὥρνυτ' Ἴησων.
ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἐνὶ σταθμοῖσιν ἀπείρονα μῆλ' ἐφόβησαν
ἡματι χειμερίῳ πολιοὶ λύκοι ὀρμηθέντες
125 λάθρῃ ἐυρρίνων τε κυνῶν αὐτῶν τε νομήων,
μαίονται δ' ὅ τι πρῶτον ἐπαΐξαντες ἔλωσιν,
πόλλ' ἐπιπαμφαλόωντες ὁμοῦ· τὰ δὲ πάντοθεν αὐτῶς
στείνονται πίπτοντα περὶ σφίσιν· ὧς ἄρα τοίγε
λευγαλέως Βέβρυκας ὑπερφιάλους ἐφόβησαν.

130 ὥς δὲ μελισσάων σμῆνος μέγα μηλοβοτῆρες
 ἤε μελισσοκόμοι πέτρῃ ἐνὶ καπνιώσιν,
 αἱ δ' ἦτοι τείως μὲν ἀολλέεζ ᾧ ἐνὶ σίμβλῳ
 βομβηδὸν κλονέονται, ἐπιπρὸ δὲ λιγνύοντι
 καπνῷ τυφόμεναι πέτρης ἐκὰς αἴσσουσιν:
 135 ὥς οἱγ' οὐκέτι δὴν μένον ἔμπεδον, ἀλλ' ἐκέδασθεν
 εἴσω Βεβρυκίης, Ἀμύκου μόρον ἀγγελέοντες:
 νήπιοι, οὐδ' ἐνόησαν ὃ δὴ σφισιν ἐγγύθεν ἄλλο
 πῆμ' αἰδήλον ἔην. πέρθοντο γὰρ ἡμὲν ἄλωαι
 ἡδ' οἶαι τῆμος δῆψ ὑπὸ δουρὶ Λύκοιο
 140 καὶ Μαρνανδυνῶν ἀνδρῶν, ἀπεόντος ἄνακτος.
 αἰεὶ γὰρ μάρναντο σιδηροφόρου περὶ γαίης.
 οἱ δ' ἤδη σταθμούς τε καὶ αὔλια δηιάσκον:
 ἦδη δ' ἄσπετα μῆλα περιτροπάδην ἐτάμοντο
 ἥρωες, καὶ δὴ τις ἔπος μετὰ τοῖσιν ἔειπεν:
 145 'Φράζεσθ' ὅτι κεν ἦσιν ἀναλκείησιν ἔρεξαν,
 εἴ πως Ἡρακλῆα θεὸς καὶ δεῦρ' ἐκόμισσε.
 ἦτοι μὲν γὰρ ἐγὼ κείνου παρεόντος ἔολπα
 οὐδ' ἂν πυγμαχίῃ κρινθήμεναι: ἀλλ' ὅτε θεσμοὺς
 ἤλυθεν ἐξερέων, αὐτοῖς ἄφαρ οἷς ἀγόρευεν
 150 θεσμοῖσιν ῥοπάλῳ μιν ἀγηνορίης λελαθέσθαι.
 ναὶ μὲν ἀκήδεστον γαίῃ ἐνὶ τόνγε λιπόντες
 πόντον ἐπέπλωμεν: μάλα δ' ἡμέων αὐτὸς ἕκαστος
 εἴσεται οὐλομένην ἄτην, ἀπάνευθεν ἐόντος.'
 ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη: τὰ δὲ πάντα Διὸς βουλῆς ἐτέτυκτο.
 155 καὶ τότε μὲν μένον αὖθι διὰ κνέφας, ἔλκεά τ' ἀνδρῶν
 οὐταμένων ἀκέοντο, καὶ ἀθανάτοισι θυηλὰς
 ῥέξαντες μέγα δόρπον ἐφώπλισαν: οὐδέ τιν' ὕπνος
 εἶλε παρὰ κρητῆρι καὶ αἰθομένοις ἱεροῖσιν.
 ξανθὰ δ' ἐρεψάμενοι δάφνη καθύπερθε μέτωπα
 160 ἀγχιάλῳ, τῇ, ἀκτῇ ἔπι, πρυμνήσι' ἀνῆπτο,
 Ὀρφεῖ φόρμιγγι συνοίμιον ὕμνον ᾄειδον
 ἐμμελέως: περὶ δέ σφιν ἰαίνεται νήνεμος ἀκτὴ
 μελομένοις: κλεῖον δὲ Θεραπναῖον Διὸς υἱά.
 ἦμος δ' ἥελιος δροσερὰς ἐπέλαμψε κολῶνας
 165 ἐκ περάτων ἀνιών, ἤγειρε δὲ μηλοβοτῆρας,
 δὴ τότε λυσάμενοι νεάτης ἐκ πείσματα δάφνης,
 ληίδα τ' εἰσβήσαντες ὄσσην χρεὼ ἦεν ἄγεσθαι,
 πνοιῇ δινήεντ' ἀνὰ Βόσπορον ἰθύνοντο.
 ἔνθα μὲν ἡλιβάτῳ ἐναλίγκιον οὔρεϊ κῶμα
 170 ἀμφέρεται προπάροιθεν ἐπαῖσσοντι ἐοικός,
 αἰὲν ὑπὲρ νεφέων ἡερμένον: οὐδέ κε φαίης
 φεύξεσθαι κακὸν οἶτον, ἐπεὶ μάλα μεσσοῦσι νηὸς
 λάβρον ἐπικρέματα, καθάπερ νέφος. ἀλλὰ τόγ' ἔμπηξ

στóρννυται, εἰ κ' ἐσθλοῖο κυβερνητῆρος ἐπαύρη.
 175 τῷ καὶ Τίφυος οἶδε δαημοσύνησι νέοντο,
 ἀσκηθεῖς μὲν, ἀτὰρ πεφοβημένοι. ἤματι δ' ἄλλω
 ἀντιπέρην γαίῃ Βιθυνίδι πείσματ' ἀνήψαν.
 ἔνθα δ' ἐπάκτιον οἶκον Ἀγηνορίδης ἔχε Φινεύς,
 ὃς περὶ δὴ πάντων ὀλοώτατα πῆματ' ἀνέτλη
 180 εἵνεκα μαντοσύνης, τὴν οἱ πάρος ἐγγυάλιξεν
 Λητοῖδης· οὐδ' ὅσπον ὀπίζετο καὶ Διὸς αὐτοῦ
 χρεῖων ἀτρεκέως ἱερὸν νόον ἀνθρώποισιν.
 τῷ καὶ οἱ γῆρας μὲν ἐπὶ δηναιὸν ἴαλλεν,
 ἐκ δ' ἔλετ' ὀφθαλμῶν γλυκερὸν φάος· οὐδὲ γάνυσθαι
 185 εἶα ἀπειρεσίοισιν ὀνειάσιν, ὅσσα οἱ αἰεὶ
 θέσφατα πευθόμενοι περυναίεται οἴκαδ' ἄγειρον.
 ἀλλὰ διὰ νεφέων ἄφνω πέλας αἴσσουσαι
 ἄρπυιαι στόματος χειρῶν τ' ἀπὸ γαμφηλῆσιν
 συνεχέως ἥρπαζον. ἐλείπετο δ' ἄλλοτε φορβῆς
 190 οὐδ' ὅσον, ἄλλοτε τυτθόν, ἵνα ζῶων ἀκάχοιτο.
 καὶ δ' ἐπὶ μυδαλέην ὀδμὴν χέον· οὐδέ τις ἔτλη
 μὴ καὶ λευκανίηνδε φορεύμενος, ἀλλ' ἀποτηλοῦ
 ἐστηώς· τοῖόν οἱ ἀπέπνεε λείψανα δαιτός.
 αὐτίκα δ' εἰσαΐων ἐνοπὴν καὶ δοῦπον ὀμίλου
 195 τούσδ' αὐτοὺς παριόντας ἐπήισεν, ὧν οἱ ἰόντων
 θέσφατον ἐκ Διὸς ἦεν ἐῆς ἀπόνασθαι ἐδωδῆς.
 ὀρθωθείς δ' εὐνῆθεν, ἀκήριον ἦν τ' ὄνειρον,
 βάκτρῳ σκηπτόμενος ῥικνοῖς ποσὶν ἦε θύραζε,
 τοίχους ἀμφοφόων· τρέμε δ' ἄψα νισσομένοιο
 200 ἀδρανίῃ γήραι τε· πίνῃ δέ οἱ αὐσταλέος χρῶς
 ἐσκλήκει, ῥινοὶ δὲ σὺν ὀστέα μούνον ἔεργον.
 ἐκ δ' ἐλθὼν μεγάροιο καθέζετο γούνα βαρυνθεὶς
 οὐδοῦ ἐπ' αὐλείοιο· κάρος δέ μιν ἀμφεκάλυπεν
 πορφύρεος, γαῖαν δὲ πέριξ ἐδόκησε φέρεσθαι
 205 νεϊόθεν, ἀβληχρῶ δ' ἐπὶ κώματι κέκλιτ' ἄναυδος.
 οἱ δέ μιν ὥς εἶδοντο, περισταδὸν ἠγερέθοντο
 καὶ τάφον. αὐτὰρ ὁ τοῖσι μάλα μόλις ἐξ ὑπάτοιο
 στήθεος ἀμπνεύσας μετεφώνεε μαντοσύνησιν·
 'κλῦτε, Πανελλήνων προφερέστατοι, εἰ ἔτεδν δὴ
 210 οἶδ' ὑμεῖς, οὓς δὴ κρυερῇ βασιλῆος ἐφεμῆ
 Ἀργῶς ἐπὶ νηὸς ἄγει μετὰ κῶας Ἰήσων.
 ὑμεῖς ἀτρεκέως. ἔτι μοι νόος οἶδεν ἕκαστα
 ἦσι θεοπροπίησι. χάριν νύ τοι, ὦ ἄνα Λητοῦς
 υἱέ, καὶ ἀργαλέοισιν ἀνάπτομαι ἐν καμάτοισιν.
 215 Ἰκεσίου πρὸς Ζηνός, ὅτις ῥίγιστος ἀλιτροῖς
 ἀνδράσι, Φοίβου τ' ἀμφὶ καὶ αὐτῆς εἵνεκεν Ἥρης
 λίσσομαι, ἥ περὶ ἅλα θεῶν μέμβλεσθε κιόντες,

χραίσμετέ μοι, ῥύσασθε δυσάμμορον άνέρα λύμης,
μηδέ μ' άκηδείησιν άφορμήθητε λιπόντες
220 αὐτως. οὐ γάρ μοῦνον ἐπ' όφθαλμοῖσιν Ἑρινὺς
λάξ επέβη, καὶ γήρας άμήρυτον ἐς τέλος ἔλκω·
πρὸς δ' ἔτι πικρότατον κρέμαται κακὸν ἄλλο κακοῖσιν.
ἄρπυιαι στόματός μοι άφαρπάζουσιν έδωδὴν
έκποθεν άφράστοιο καταΐσσουσαι όλεθροί.
225 ἴσχω δ' οὔτινα μῆτιν ἐπίρροθον. ἀλλά κε ρεῖα
αὐτὸς ἐὼν λελάθοιμι νόον δόρποιο μεμηλώς,
ἢ κείνας· ὧδ' αἶψα διηέριαι ποτέονται.
τυτθὸν δ' ἦν ἄρα δήποτ' έδητύος ἄμμι λίπωσιν,
πνεῖ τόδε μυδαλέον τε καὶ οὐ τλητὸν μένος όδμῆς·
230 οὐ κέ τις οὐδὲ μίνυνθα βροτῶν ἄνσχοιτο πελάσσας,
οὐδ' εἴ οἱ αδάμαντος ἐηλλάμενον κέαρ εἶη.
ἀλλά με πικρὴ δῆτα καὶ ἄατος ἴσχει άνάγκη
μίμνειν καὶ μίμνοντα κακῇ ἐνὶ γαστέρι θέσθαι.
τὰς μὲν θέσφατόν έστιν έρητῦσαι Βορέας
235 υἱέας. οὐδ' όθνεῖοι ἀλαλκήσουσιν έόντες,
εἰ δὴ ἐγὼν ό πρίν ποτ' ἐπικλυτὸς άνδράσι Φινεύς
όλβω μαντοσύνη τε, πατήρ δέ με γείνατ' Ἀγήνωρ·
τῶν δὲ κασιγνήτην, ὅτ' ἐνὶ Θρήκεσσιν ἄνασσον,
Κλειοπάτρην έδνοισιν έμὸν δόμον ἦγον ἄκοιτιν.'
240 Ἴσκεν Ἀγηγορίδης· ἀδινὸν δ' ἔλε κῆδος έκαστον
ήρώων, πέρι δ' αὐτε δύω υἱας Βορέας.
δάκρυ δ' όμορξαμένω σχεδὸν ἤλυθον, ὧδέ τ' ἔειπεν
Ζήτης, άσχαλόωντος έλὼν χερὶ χεῖρα γέροντος·
'Ἐ δειλ', οὔτινά φημι σέθεν συμγερώτερον ἄλλον
245 ἔμμεναι άνθρώπων. τί νύ τοι τόσα κήδε' άνῆπται;
ἦ ρά θεοὺς όλοῇσι παρήλιτες άφραδίησιν
μαντοσύνας δεδαώς; τῷ τοι μέγα μηνιώσιν;
ἄμμι γε μὴν νόος ένδον άτύζεται ιεμένοισιν
χραισμεῖν, εἰ δὴ πρόχγνυ γέρας τόδε πάρθετο δαίμων
250 νῶιν. ἀρίζηλοι γάρ επιχθονίοισιν ένιπαι
άθανάτων. οὐδ' ἂν πρίν έρητῦσαιμεν ιούσας
Ἀρπυίας, μάλα περ λελητημένοι, ἔστ' ἂν όμόσσης,
μὴ μὲν τοῖό γ' ἔκητι θεοῖς από θυμοῦ ἔσεσθαι.'
ὧς φάτο· τοῦ δ' ιθὺς κενεάς ό γεραιὸς άνέσχεν
255 γλήνας άμπετάσας, καὶ άμείψατο τοῖσδ' επέεσσιν·
'σίγα· μή μοι ταῦτα νόω ένι βάλλεο, τέκνον.
ἴστω Λητοῦς υἱός, ό με πρόφρων έδίδαξεν
μαντοσύνας· ἴστω δὲ δυσώνυμος, ἢ μ' ἔλαχεν, κῆρ
καὶ τόδ' ἐπ' όφθαλμῶν ἀλαδὸν νέφος, οἱ θ' ὑπένερθεν
260 δαίμονες, οἱ μηδ' ὧδε θανόντι περ εύμενέοιεν,
ὡς οὐ τις θεόθεν χόλος ἔσσεται εἶνεκ' άρωγῆς.'

τῷ μὲν ἔπειθ' ὄρκοισιν ἀλαλκόμεναι μενέαινον.
 αἶψα δὲ κουρότεροι πεπονήητο δαῖτα γέροντι,
 λοισθήιον Ἀρπυίῃσιν ἐλώριον· ἐγγύθι δ' ἄμφω
 265 στήσαν, ἵνα ξιφέεσσιν ἐπεσσυμένους ἐλάσειαν.
 καὶ δὴ τὰ πρῶτισθ' ὁ γέρων ἔψαυεν ἐδωδῆς·
 αἱ δ' ἄφαρ ἡύτ' ἄελλαι ἀδευκές, ἣ στεροπαὶ ὥς,
 ἀπρόφατοι νεφέων ἐξάλμεναι ἐσσεύοντο
 κλαγγῇ μαιμώωσαι ἐδητύος· οἱ δ' ἐσιδόντες
 270 ἥρωες μεσσηγὺς ἀνίαχον· αἱ δ' ἄμ' ἀντῇ
 πάντα καταβρόξασαι ὑπὲρ πόντοιο φέροντο
 τῇλε παρέξ· ὁδμὴ δὲ δυσάσχετος αὐθι λέλειπτο.
 τῶν δ' αὖ κατόπισθε δύω υἷες Βορέας
 φάσαν· ἐπισχόμενοι ὀπίσω θεόν. ἐν γὰρ ἔηκεν
 275 Ζεὺς μένος ἀκάματόν σφιν· ἀτὰρ Διὸς οὐ κεν ἐπέσθην
 νόσφιν, ἐπεὶ ζεφύριοι παραΐσσεσκον ἀέλλας
 αἰέν. ὅτ' ἐς Φινῆα καὶ ἐκ Φινῆος ἴοιεν.
 ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἐνὶ κνημοῖσι κύνες δεδαημένοι ἄγρη;
 ἣ αἶγας κεραοὺς ἡὲ πρόκας ἰχνεύοντες
 280 θεῖωσιν, τυτθὸν δὲ τιτανόμενοι μετόπισθεν
 ἄκρης ἐν γενύεσσι μάτην ἀράβησαν ὀδόντας·
 ὥς Ζήτης Κάλαις τε μάλα σχεδὸν αἰσسونτες
 τῶν ἀκροτάτησιν ἐπέχραον ἥλιθα χερσίν.
 καὶ νύ κε δὴ σφ' ἀέκητι θεῶν διεδηλήσαντο
 285 πολλὸν ἐκάς νήσοισιν ἔπι Πλωτῆσι κιχόντες,
 εἰ μὴ ἄρ' ὠκέα Ἴρις ἴδεν, κατὰ δ' αἰθέρος ἄλτο
 οὐρανόθεν, καὶ τοῖα παραιφαμένη κατέρυκεν·
 'οὐ θέμις, ὦ υἱεῖς Βορέω, ξιφέεσσιν ἐλάσσαι
 Ἀρπυίας, μέγαλοιο Διὸς κύνας· ὄρκια δ' αὐτῇ
 290 δώσω ἐγών, ὥς οὐ οἱ ἔτι χρίμψουσιν ἰοῦσαι.'
 ὥς φαμένη λοιβὴν Στυγὸς ὤμοσεν, ἣ τε θεοῖσιν
 ῥιγίστη πάντεσσιν ὀπιδνοτάτη τε τέτυκται,
 μὴ μὲν Ἀγηνορίδαο δόμοις ἔτι τάσδε πελάσσαι
 εἰσαυτὶς Φινῆος, ἐπεὶ καὶ μόρσιμον ἦεν.
 295 οἱ δ' ὄρκῳ εἰζαντες ὑπέστρεφον ἄψ ἐπὶ νῆα
 σώεσθαι. Στροφάδας δὲ μετακλείουσ' ἀνθρώποι
 νήσους τοῖο γ' ἔκητι, πάρος Πλωτᾶς καλέοντες.
 Ἄρπυιαι τ' Ἴρις τε διέτμαγεν. αἱ μὲν ἔδυσαν
 κευθμῶνα Κρήτης Μινωίδος· ἣ δ' ἀνόρουσεν
 300 Οὐλυμπόνδε, θοῇσι μεταχρονίη πετέρυγεσσιν.
 τόφρα δ' ἀριστῆες πινόνεν περὶ δέρμα γέροντος
 πάντη φοιβήσαντες ἐπικριδὸν ἱρεύσαντο
 μῆλα, τὰ τ' ἐξ Ἀμύκοιο λεηλασίης ἐκόμισσαν.
 αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ μέγα δόρπον ἐνὶ μεγάροισιν ἔθεντο,
 305 δαίνυνθ' ἐζόμενοι· σὺν δὲ σφισι δαίνυτο Φινεὺς

ἀρπαλέως, οἷόν τ' ἐν ὄνείρασι θυμὸν ἱαίνων.
 ἔνθα δ', ἐπεὶ δόρποιο κορέσσαντ' ἡδὲ ποτῆτος,
 παννύχιοι Βορέω μένον υἱέας ἐγρήσσοντες.
 αὐτὸς δ' ἐν μέσσοισι παρ' ἐσχάρῃ ἦστο γεραιὸς
 310 πείρατα ναυτιλίας ἐνέπων ἄνυσίν τε κελεύθου:
 'κλυτέ νυν. οὐ μὲν πάντα πέλει θέμις ὕμμι δαῖνα
 ἀτρεκές: ὅσσα δ' ὄρωρε θεοῖς φίλον, οὐκ ἐπικεύσω.
 ἀσάμην καὶ πρόσθε Διὸς νόον ἀφραδίησιν
 χρειῶν ἐξεῖης τε καὶ ἐς τέλος. ὧδε γὰρ αὐτὸς
 315 βούλεται ἀνθρώποις ἐπιδευέα θέσφατα φαίνειν
 μαντοσύνης, ἵνα καὶ τι θεῶν χατέωσι νόοιο.
 πέτρας μὲν πάμπρωτον, ἀφορμηθέντες ἐμεῖο,
 Κυανέας ὄψεσθε δῶο ἄλως ἐν ξυνοχῇσιν,
 τῶν οὐτινά φημι διαμπερές ἐξαλέασθαι.
 320 οὐ γάρ τε ρίζησιν ἐρήρηνται νεάτησιν,
 ἀλλὰ θαμὰ ξυνίασιν ἐναντία ἀλλήλησιν
 εἰς ἓν, ὕπερθε δὲ πολλὸν ἄλως κορθύεται ὕδωρ
 βρασσόμενον: στρηνὲς δὲ περὶ στυφελῇ βρέμει ἀκτῇ.
 τῷ νῦν ἡμετέρῃσι παραιφασίησι πίθεσθε,
 325 εἰ ἐτεὸν πυκινῷ τε νόῳ μακάρων τ' ἀλέγοντες
 πείρετε: μηδ' αὐτῶς αὐτάγρετον οἶτον ὀλησθε
 ἀφραδέως, ἣ θύνετ' ἐπισπόμενοι νεότητι.
 οἶωνῷ δὴ πρόσθε πελειάδι πειρήσασθαι
 νηὸς ἅπο προμεθέντες ἐφιέμεν. ἦν δὲ δι' αὐτῶν
 330 πετράων πόντονδε σὴν περύγεσσι δίηται,
 μηκέτι δὴν μηδ' αὐτοὶ ἐρητύεσθε κελεύθου,
 ἀλλ' εὖ καρτύναντες εἰς ἐνὶ χερσὶν ἐρετμὰ
 τέμνεθ' ἄλως στενωπόν: ἐπεὶ φάος οὐ νύ τι τόσσον
 ἔσσειτ' ἐν εὐχολῇσιν, ὅσον τ' ἐνὶ κάρτει χειρῶν.
 335 τῷ καὶ τᾶλλα μεθέντες ὀνήϊστον πονέεσθαι
 θαρσαλέως: πρὶν δ' οὔτι θεοὺς λίσσεσθαι ἐρύκω.
 εἰ δέ κεν ἀντικρὺ παμμένη μεσσηγὺς ὀληται,
 ἄγορροι στέλλεσθαι ἐπεὶ πολὺ βέλτερον εἶξαι
 ἀθανάτοις. οὐ γάρ κε κακὸν μόνον ἐξαλέαισθε
 340 πετράων, οὐδ' εἴ κε σιδηρεῖη πέλοι Λίργω.
 ὦ μέλαιοι, μὴ τλήτε παρὲξ ἐμὰ θέσφατα βῆναι,
 εἰ καὶ με τρεῖς τόσσον οἴεσθ' Οὐρανίδησιν,
 ὅσσον ἀνάρσιός εἰμι, καὶ εἰ πλεῖον στυγέεσθαι:
 μὴ τλήτ' οἶωνοῖο πάρεξ ἔτι νηὶ περῆσαι.
 345 καὶ τὰ μὲν ὥς κε ἐλέη, τὼς ἔσσεται. ἦν δὲ φύγητε
 σύνδρομα πετράων ἀσκηθεὲς ἔνδοθι Πόντου,
 αὐτίκα Βιθυνῶν ἐπὶ δεξιὰ γαῖαν ἔχοντες
 πλῶετε ῥηγμῖνας πεφυλαγμένοι, εἰσόκεν αὔτε
 Ῥήβαν ὠκυρόην ποταμὸν ἄκρην τε Μέλαιναν

350 γνάμψαντες νήσου Θυνηίδος ὄρμον ἵκησθε.
 κεῖθεν δ' οὐ μάλα πολὺν διεξ ἄλως ἀντιπέραιαν
 γῆν Μαρνανδυνῶν ἐπικέλσετε νοστήσαντες.
 ἔνθα μὲν εἰς Αἶδαο καταβᾶτις ἐστὶ κέλευθος,
 ἄκρη τε προβλῆς Ἀχερουσιάς ὑπόθι τείνει,
 355 δινήεις τ' Ἀχέρων αὐτὴν διὰ νειόθι τέμνων
 ἄκρην ἐκ μεγάλης προχοᾷς ἵησι φάραγος.
 ἀγχίμολον δ' ἐπὶ τῇ πολέας παρανεῖσθε κολωνούς
 Παφλαγόνων, τοῖσιν τ' Ἐνετήιος ἐμβασίλευσεν
 πρῶτα Πέλοψ, τοῦ καὶ περ ἄφ' αἵματος εὐχετόωνται.
 360 ἔστι δέ τις ἄκρη Ἑλίκης κατεναντίον Ἄρκτου,
 πάντοθεν ἡλίβατος, καὶ μιν καλέουσι Κάραμβιν,
 τῆς καὶ ὑπὲρ βορέαο περισχίζονται ἄελλαι·
 ὧδε μάλ' ἂμ πέλαγος τετραμμένη αἰθέρι κύρει.
 τήνδε περιγνάμψαντι πολὺς παρακέκλιται· ἦδη
 365 αἰγιαλός· πολέος δ' ἐπὶ πείρασιν Αἰγιαλοῖο
 ἄκτῃ ἐπὶ προβλήτι ῥοαὶ Ἄλυος ποταμοῖο
 δεινὸν ἐρεύγονται· μετὰ τὸν δ' ἀγχίροος Ἴρις
 μειότερος λευκῇσιν ἐλίσσεται εἰς ἄλλα δίναις.
 κεῖθεν δὲ προτέρωσε μέγας καὶ ὑπείροχος ἀγκῶν
 370 ἐξανέχει γαίης· ἐπὶ δὲ στόμα Θερμώδοντος
 κόλπῳ ἐν εὐδιόωντι Θεμισκύρειον ὑπ' ἄκρην
 μύρεται, εὐρείης διαειμένος ἡπείροιο.
 ἔνθα δὲ Δοϊάντος πεδίον, σχεδόνθεν δὲ πόλεις
 τρισσαὶ Ἀμαζονίδων, μετὰ τε συμγερώτατοι ἀνδρῶν
 375 τρηχεῖαν Χάλυβες καὶ ἀτειρέα γαῖαν ἔχουσιν,
 ἐργατῖναι· τοὶ δ' ἀμφὶ σιδήρεα ἔργα μέλονται.
 ἄγχι δὲ φαιετάουσι πολύρρηνες Τιβαρηνοὶ
 Ζηνὸς Ἐυξείνιοιο Γενηταίων ὑπὲρ ἄκρην.
 τῇ δ' ἐπὶ Μοσσύνοικοι ὁμούριοι ὕληεσσαν
 380 ἐξείης ἡπειρον, ὑπωρείας τε νέμονται,
 δουρατέοις πύργοισιν ἐν οἰκίᾳ τεκτῆναντες
 κάλινα καὶ πύργους εὐπηγέας, οὓς καλέουσιν
 μόσσυνας· καὶ δ' αὐτοὶ ἐπώνυμοι ἔνθεν ἔασιν.
 τοὺς παραμειβόμενοι λισσῇ ἐπικέλσετε νήσω,
 μήτι παντοίῃ μέγ' ἀναιδέας ἐξελάσαντες
 οἰωνούς, οἳ δῆθεν ἀπειρέσιοι ἐφέπουσιν
 385 νῆσον ἐρημαίην. τῇ μὲν τ' ἐνὶ νηὸν Ἄρης
 λαΐνεον ποίησαν Ἀμαζονίδων βασιλειαί
 Ὀτρηρὴ τε καὶ Ἀντιόπη, ὅποτε στρατόωντο.
 ἔνθα γὰρ ὕμιν ὄνειαρ ἀδευκέος ἐξ ἄλως εἴσιν
 ἄρρητον· τῷ καὶ τε φίλα φρονέων ἀγορεύω
 390 ἰσχέμεν. ἀλλὰ τί με πάλιν χρεῖω ἀλιτέσθαι
 μαντοσύνη τὰ ἕκαστα διηνεκὲς ἐξενέποντα;

νήσου δὲ προτέρωσε καὶ ἡπείριοιο περαιῖης
 φέρβονται Φύλινες· Φιλύρων δ' ἐφύπερθεν ἔασιν
 Μάκρωνες· μετὰ δ' αὖ περιώσια φῦλα Βεχεύρων.
 395 ἐξείης δὲ Σάπειρες ἐπὶ σφίσι ναιετάουσιν·
 Βύζηρες δ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ὁμώλακες, ὧν ὕπερ ἤδη
 αὐτοὶ Κόλχοι ἔχονται ἀρήιοι. ἀλλ' ἐνὶ νηὶ
 πείρεθ', ἕως μυχάτη κεν ἐνιχρίμνητε θαλάσση.
 ἔνθα δ' ἐπ' ἡπείριοιο Κυταιίδος, ἥδ' Ἀμαραντῶν
 400 τηλόθεν ἐξ ὁρέων πεδίοιο τε Κιρκαίοιο
 Φᾶσις δινήεις εὐρὺν ῥόον εἰς ἄλα βάλλει.
 κείνου νῆ' ἐλάοντες ἐπὶ προχοᾷς ποταμοῖο
 πύργους εἰσόψεσθε Κυταιέος Αἰήταο,
 ἄλσος τε σκιοῖεν Ἄρεος, τόθι κῶας ἐπ' ἄκρης
 405 πεπτάμενον φηγοῖο δράκων, τέρας αἰνὸν ιδέσθαι,
 ἀμφὶς ὀπιτεύει δεδοκημένος· οὐδέ οἱ ἦμαρ,
 οὐ κνέφας ἡδυμος ὕπνος ἀναιδέα δάμναται ὄσσε.
 ὧς ἄρ' ἔφη· τοὺς δ' εἴθαρ ἔλεν δέος εἰσαΐοντας.
 δὴν δ' ἔσαν ἀμφασίη βεβολημένοι· ὄνῃ δ' ἔειπεν
 410 ἦρως Αἴσονος υἱὸς ἀμηχανέων κακότητι·
 'ὦ γέρον, ἤδη μὲν τε δυῖκεο πείρατ' ἀέθλων
 ναυτιλίας καὶ τέκμαρ, ὅτῳ στυγεράς διὰ πέτρας
 πειθόμενοι Πόντονδε περήσομεν· εἰ δέ κεν αὖτις
 τάσδ' ἡμῖν προφυγοῦσιν ἐς Ἑλλάδα νόστος ὀπίσσω
 415 ἔσσεται, ἀσπαστῶς κε παρὰ σέο καὶ τὸ δαεῖν.
 πῶς ἔρδω, πῶς αὖτε τόσῃν ἁλὸς εἴμι κέλευθον,
 νῆις ἐὼν ἐτάροις ἅμα νήισιν; αἶα δὲ Κολχίς
 Πόντου καὶ γαίης ἐπικέκλιται ἐσχατιῇσιν.'
 ὧς φάτο· τὸν δ' ὁ γεραίὸς ἀμειβόμενος προσέειπεν·
 420 'ὦ τέκος, εὖτ' ἂν πρῶτα φύγῃς ὀλοᾶς διὰ πέτρας,
 θάρσει· ἐπεὶ δαίμων ἕτερον πλόον ἡγεμονεύσει
 ἐξ Αἴης· μετὰ δ' Αἴαν ἅλις πομπῆς ἔσονται.
 ἀλλὰ, φίλοι, φράζεσθε θεᾶς δολόεσσαν ἄρωγῇν
 Κύπριδος, ἐκ γὰρ τῆς κλυτὰ πείρατα κεῖται ἀέθλων.
 425 καὶ δέ με μηκέτι τῶνδε περαιτέρω ἐξερέεσθε.'
 ὧς φάτ' Ἀγηνορίδης· ἐπὶ δὲ σχεδὸν υἷε δοιῷ
 Θρηκίου Βορέας κατ' αἰθέρος αἶζαντε
 οὐδῶ ἔπι κραιπνοὺς ἔβαλον πόδας· οἱ δ' ἀνόρουσαν
 ἐξ ἐδέων ἥρωες, ὅπως παρεόντας ἴδοντο.
 430 Ζήτης δ' ἰεμένοισιν, ἔτ' ἄσπετον ἐκ καμάτοιο
 ἄσθμ' ἀναφυσιόων, μετεφώνεεν, ὅσσον ἄποθεν
 ἦλασαν, ἥδ' ὥς Ἴρις ἐρύκακε τάσδε δαΐξαι,
 ὄρκια τ' εὐμενέουσα θεὰ πόρεν, αἰ δ' ὑπέδυσαν
 δείματι Δικταίης περιώσιον ἄντρον ἐρίπνης.
 435 γηθόσυνοι δῆπαιτα δόμοις ἔνι πάντες ἐταῖροι

αὐτός τ' ἄγγελίη Φινεὺς πέλεν. ὧκα δὲ τόνγε
 Αἰσονίδης περιπολλὸν ἐυφρονέων προσέειπεν·
 ἥ ἄρα δὴ τις ἔην, Φινεῦ, θεός, ὃς σέθεν ἄτης
 κήδετο λευγαλέης, καὶ δ' ἡμέας αὖθι πέλασσεν
 440 τηλόθεν, ὄφρα τοι υἷες ἀμύνειαν Βορέας·
 εἰ δὲ καὶ ὀφθαλμοῖσι φώως πόροι ἦ τ' ἂν οἶω
 γηθήσιν, ὅσον εἴπερ ὑπότροπος οἴκαδ' ἰκοίμην.
 ὧς ἔφατ'· αὐτὰρ ὁ τόνγε κατηφήσας προσέειπεν·
 'Αἰσονίδη, τὸ μὲν οὐ παλινάγρετον, οὐδέ τι μῆχος
 445 ἔστ' ὀπίσω· κενεαὶ γὰρ ὑποσμύχονται ὀπωπαί.
 ἀντὶ δὲ τοῦ θανάτον μοι ἄφαρ θεὸς ἐγγυαλίξαι,
 καὶ τε θανὼν πάσῃσι μετέσσομαι ἀγλαΐῃσιν.'
 ὧς τῶγ' ἀλλήλοισι παραβλήδην ἀγόρευον.
 αὐτίκα δ' οὐ μετὰ δηρὸν ἀμειβομένων ἐφάνθη
 450 Ἥριγενής· τὸν δ' ἀμφὶ περικτίται ἠγερέθοντο
 ἄνδρες, οἳ καὶ πρόσθεν ἐπ' ἤματι κεῖσε θάμιζον,
 αἰὲν ὁμῶς φορέοντες ἐῆς ἀπὸ μοῖραν ἐδωδής.
 τοῖς ὁ γέρων πάντεσσιν, ὅτις καὶ ἀφαιρὸς ἴκοιτο,
 ἔχραεν ἐνδυκέως, πολέων δ' ἀπὸ πῆματ' ἔλυσεν
 455 μαντοσύνη· τῷ καὶ μιν ἐποικόμενοι κομέεσκον.
 σὺν τοῖσιν δ' ἴκανε Παραίβιος, ὃς ῥά οἱ ἦεν
 φίλτατος· ἀσπᾶσιος δὲ· δόμοις ἔνι τούσγ' ἐνόησεν.
 πρὶν γὰρ δὴ νύ ποτ' αὐτὸς ἀριστήων στόλον ἀνδρῶν
 Ἑλλάδος ἐξανίοντα μετὰ πτόλιν Αἰήτα
 460 πείσματ' ἀνάψασθαι μυθήσατο Θυνίδι γαίῃ,
 οἳ τέ οἱ Ἀρπυίας Διόθεν σχήσουσιν ἰούσας.
 τοὺς μὲν ἔπειτ' ἐπέεσσιν ἀρεσσάμενος πυκνιοῖσιν
 πέμφ' ὁ γέρων· οἷον δὲ Παραίβιον αὐτόθι μίμνειν
 κέκλετ' ἀριστήεσσι σὺν ἀνδράσιν· αἶψα δὲ τόνγε
 465 σφωιτέρων οἶων ὅτις ἔξοχος, εἰς ἔκομίσσαι
 ἦκεν ἐποτρύνας. τοῦ δ' ἐκ μεγάραιο κιόντος
 μειλχίως ἐρέτησιν ὁμηγέρεσσι μετηύδα·
 'ὦ φίλοι, οὐκ ἄρα πάντες ὑπέρβιοι ἄνδρες ἔασιν,
 οὐδ' εὐεργεσίης ἀμνήμονες. ὥς καὶ ὄδ' ἀνήρ
 470 τοῖος ἐὼν δεῦρ' ἦλθεν, ἐὼν μόρον ὄφρα δαεῖν.
 εὐτε γὰρ οὖν ὥς πλεῖστα κάμοι καὶ πλεῖστα μογήσαι,
 δὴ τότε μιν περιπολλὸν ἐπασσυτέρη βιότοιο
 χρημοσύνη τρύχεσκεν· ἐπ' ἤματι δ' ἡμαρ ὀρώρει
 κύντερον, οὐδέ τις ἦεν ἀνάπνευσις μογέοντι.
 475 ἀλλ' ὅγε πατὴρ ἐοῖο κακὴν τίνεσκεν ἀμοιβὴν
 ἀμπλακίης. ὁ γὰρ οἷος ἐν οὔρεσι δένδρεα τέμνων
 δὴ ποθ' ἀμαδρυάδος νύμφης ἀθήριξε λιτῶν,
 ἦ μιν ὀδυρομένη ἀδινῶ μειλίσσετο μύθῳ,
 μὴ ταμείν πρέμνον δρυὸς ἥλικος, ἦ ἐπὶ πουλὺν

480 αἰῶνα τρίβεσκε διηνεκές· αὐτὰρ ὁ τήγγε
 ἀφραδέως ἔτμηξεν ἀγηνορίῃ νεότητος.
 τῷ δ' ἄρα νηκερδῇ νύμφῃ πόρεν οἶτον ὀπίσσω
 αὐτῷ καὶ τεκέεσσιν. ἔγωγε μὲν, εὖτ' ἀφίκανεν,
 ἀμπλακίην ἔγνων· βωμὸν δ' ἐκέλευσα καμόντα
 485 Θυριάδος νύμφης, λωφῆια ῥέξιαι ἐπ' αὐτῷ
 ἱερά, πατρώην αἰτεύμενον αἶσαν ἀλύξαι.
 ἔνθ' ἐπεὶ ἔκφυγε κῆρα θεήλατον, οὐποτ' ἐμεῖο
 ἐκλάθεται, οὐδ' ἀθέρισσε· μόλις δ' ἀέκοντα θύραζε
 πέμπω, ἐπεὶ μέμονέν γε παρέμμεναι ἀσχαλόωντι.
 490 ὣς φάτ' Ἀγηνορίδης· ὁ δ' ἐπισχεδὸν αὐτίκα δοιῶ
 ἦλυθ' ἄγων ποίμνηθεν οἷς. ἀνὰ δ' ἴστατ' Ἴησων,
 ἂν δὲ Βορήιοι νῆες ἐφημοσύνησι γέροντος.
 ὦκα δὲ κεκλόμενοι μαντήιον Ἀπόλλωνα
 ῥέζον ἐπ' ἐσχαρόφιν νέον ἡματος ἀνομένοιο.
 495 κουρότεροι δ' ἐτάρων μενοεικέα δαῖτ' ἀλέγνουν.
 ἔνθ' εὖ δαισάμενοι, τοῖ μὲν παρὰ πείσμασι νηός,
 τοῖ δ' αὐτοῦ κατὰ δώματ' ἀολλέες εὐνάζοντο.
 ἦρι δ' ἐτήσiai αὖραι ἐπέχραον, αἶ τ' ἀνὰ πᾶσαν
 γαῖαν ὁμῶς τοιῇδε Διὸς πνεῖουσιν ἄρωγῃ.
 500 Κυρήνῃ πέφαται τις ἔλος πάρα Πηνηιοῖο
 μῆλα νέμειν προτέροισι παρ' ἀνδράσιν· εὗαδε γάρ οἱ
 παρθενὴ καὶ λέκτρον ἀκήρατον. αὐτὰρ Ἀπόλλων
 τήγγ' ἀνερεψάμενος ποταμῷ ἔπι ποιμαίνουσιν
 τηλόθεν Αἰμονίης, χθονίης παρακάτθετο νύμφαις,
 505 αἱ Λιβύην ἐνέμοντο παρὰ Μυρτώσιον αἶπος.
 ἔνθα δ' Ἀρισταῖον Φοῖβῳ τέκεν, ὃν καλέουσιν
 Ἀγρέα καὶ Νόμιον πολυλήιοι Αἰμονιῆς.
 τὴν μὲν γὰρ φιλότῃ θεὸς ποιήσατο νύμφην
 αὐτοῦ μακραίωνα καὶ ἀγρότιν· νῆα δ' ἔνεικεν
 510 νηπίαχον Χείρωνος ὑπ' ἄντροισιν κομέεσθαι.
 τῷ καὶ ἀεξηθέντι θεαὶ γάμον ἐμνήστευσαν
 Μοῦσαι, ἄκεστορίην τε θεοπροπίας τ' ἐδίδασαν·
 καὶ μιν ἑὼν μῆλων θέσαν ἥρανον, ὅσσ' ἐνέμοντο
 ἄμ πεδίον Φθίης Ἀθαμάντιον ἀμφὶ τ' ἐρυμνὴν
 515 Ὅθρυν καὶ ποταμοῦ ἱερὸν ῥόον Ἀπιδανοῖο.
 ἦμος δ' οὐρανόθεν Μινωίδας ἔφλεγε νήσους
 Σείριος, οὐδ' ἐπὶ δηρὸν ἔην ἄκος ἐνναέτησιν,
 τῆμος τόνγ' ἐκάλεσσαν ἐφημοσύναις Ἑκάτοιο
 λοιμοῦ ἀλεξητῆρα. λίπεν δ' ὄγε πατρὸς ἐφετμῇ
 520 Φθίην, ἐν δὲ Κέῳ κατενάσσατο, λαὸν ἀγείρας
 Παρράσιον, τοίπερ τε Λυκάονός εἰσι γενέθλης,
 καὶ βωμὸν ποίησε μέγαν Διὸς Ἰκμαίοιο,
 ἱερά τ' εὖ ἔρρεξεν ἐν οὔρεσιν ἀστέρι κείνῳ

Σειρίῳ αὐτῷ τε Κρονίδῃ Διί. τοῖο δ' ἔκητι
 525 γαῖαν ἐπιπύχουσιν ἐτήσιαι ἐκ Διὸς αὔραι
 ἡματα τεσσαράκοντα· Κέῳ δ' ἔτι νῦν ἱερῆς
 ἀντολέων προπάροιθε Κυνὸς ῥέζουσι θυηλάς.
 καὶ τὰ μὲν ὥς ὑδέονται· ἀριστῆες δὲ καταῦθι
 μίμνον ἐρυκόμενοι· ξεινῆια δ' ἄσπετα Θυνοὶ
 530 πᾶν ἡμαρ Φινῇ χαρίζομενοι προῖαλλον.
 ἐκ δὲ τόθεν μακάρεσσι δωδῆκα δωμήσαντες
 βωμὸν ἀλὸς ῥηγμῖνι πέρην καὶ ἐφ' ἱερὰ θέντες,
 νῆα θοὴν εἰσβαῖνον ἐρεσσέμεν, οὐδὲ πελείης
 τρήρωνος λήθοντο μετὰ σφίσιν· ἀλλ' ἄρα τήνγε
 535 δείματι πεπτηῦϊαν ἐῖ φέρε χειρὶ μεμαρπῶς
 Εὐφημος, γαίης δ' ἀπὸ διπλόα πείσματ' ἔλυσαν.
 οὐδ' ἄρ' Ἀθηναίην προτέρω λάθον ὀρμηθέντες·
 αὐτίκα δ' ἐσσυμένως νεφέλης ἐπιβᾶσα πόδεσσιν
 κούφης, ἣ κε φέροι μιν ἄφαρ βριαρὴν περ ἐοῦσαν,
 540 σεύατ' ἴμεν πόντονδε, φίλα φρονέουσ' ἐρέτησιν.
 ὥς δ' ὅτε τις πάτρηθεν ἀλώμενος, οἷά τε πολλὰ
 πλαζόμεθ' ἄνθρωποι τετληότες, οὐδέ τις αἶα
 τηλουργός, πᾶσαι δὲ κατόψιοί εἰσι κέλευθοι,
 σφωιτέρους δ' ἐνόησε δόμους, ἄμυδις δὲ κέλευθος
 545 ὑγρὴ τε τραφερὴ τ' ἰνδάλλεται, ἄλλοτε δ' ἄλλη
 ὀξέα πορφύρων ἐπιμαίεται ὀφθαλμοῖσιν·
 ὧς ἄρα καρπαλίμως κούρη Διὸς ἀίξασα
 θῆκεν ἐπ' ἀξείνοιο πόδας Θυνηίδος ἀκτῆς.
 οἱ δ' ὅτε δὴ σκολιοῖο πόρου στενωπὸν ἵκοντο
 550 τρηχεῖης σπλάδεσσιν ἐεργμένον ἀμφοτέρωθεν,
 δινῆεις δ' ὑπένερθεν ἀνακλύζεσκεν ἰοῦσαν
 νῆα ῥόος, πολλὸν δὲ φόβῳ προτέρωσε νέοντο,
 ἥδη δὲ σφισι δοῦπος ἀρασσομένων πετράων
 νωλεμές οὔατ' ἐβαλλε, βόων δ' ἀλιμυρές ἀκταί,
 555 δὴ τότε· ἔπειθ' ὁ μὲν ὦρτο πελειάδα χειρὶ μεμαρπῶς
 Εὐφημος πρῶρης ἐπιβήμεναι· οἱ δ' ὑπ' ἀνωγῇ
 Τίφυος Ἀγνιάδαο θελήμονα ποιήσαντο
 εἰρεσίην, ἴν' ἔπειτα διέκ πέτρας ἐλάσειαν,
 κάρτεϊ ᾧ πίσυνοι· τὰς δ' αὐτίκα λοίσθιον ἄλλων
 560 οἴγομένας ἀγκῶνα περιγνάμψαντες ἴδοντο.
 σὺν δὲ σφιν χύτο θυμός· ὁ δ' αἶξαι πτερύγεσσι
 Εὐφημος προέηκε πελειάδα· τοῖ δ' ἅμα πάντες
 ἥειραν κεφαλὰς ἐσορώμενοι· ἣ δὲ δι' αὐτῶν
 ἔπτατο· ταὶ δ' ἄμυδις πάλιν ἀντίαι ἀλλήλησιν
 565 ἄμφω ὁμοῦ ξυνιοῦσαι ἐπέκτυπον· ὦρτο δὲ πολλὴ
 ἄλμη ἀναβρασθεῖσα, νέφος ὥς· αὖτε δὲ πόντος
 σμερδαλέον· πάντη δὲ περὶ μέγας ἔβρεμεν αἰθήρ.

κοῖλαι δὲ σπήλυγγες ὑπὸ σπιλάδας τρηχείας
κλυζούσης ἁλὸς ἔνδον ἐβόμβεον· ὑψόθι δ' ὄχθης
570 λευκὴ καχλάζοντος ἀνέπτυε κύματος ἄχνη.
νῆα δ' ἔπειτα πέριξ εἴλει ρόος· ἄκρα δ' ἔκοψαν
οὐραῖα πτερὰ ταίγε πελειάδος· ἡ δ' ἀπόρουσεν
ἀσκηθῆς· ἐρέται δὲ μέγ' ἴαχον· ἔβραχε δ' αὐτὸς
Τῖφους ἐρεσσέμεναι κρατερῶς· οἶγοντο γὰρ αὐτὶς
575 ἄνδιχα· τοὺς δ' ἐλάοντας ἔχεν τρόμος, ὄφρα μιν αὐτὴ
πλημμυρὶς παλίνορσος ἀνερχομένη κατένεικεν
εἴσω πετράων· τότε δ' αἰνότατον δέος εἶλεν
πάντας· ὑπὲρ κεφαλῆς γὰρ ἀμήχανος ἦεν ὄλεθρος.
ἦδη δ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα διὰ πλατὺς εἶδετο Πόντος,
580 καὶ σφισιν ἀπροφάτως ἀνέδου μέγα κῦμα πάροιθεν
κυρτόν, ἀποτμηγὶ σκοπιῇ ἴσον· οἱ δ' ἐσιδόντες
ἤμυσαν λοξοῖσι καρήασιν· εἴσατο γάρ ῥα
νηὸς ὑπὲρ πάσης κατεπάλμενον ἀμφικαλύψειν.
ἀλλὰ μιν ἔφθη Τῖφους ὑπ' εἰρεσίῃ βαρύθουσαν
585 ἀγχαλάσας· τὸ δὲ πολλὸν ὑπὸ τρόπιν ἐξεκυλίσθη,
ἐκ δ' αὐτὴν πρύμνηθεν ἀνείρυσε τηλόθι νῆα
πετράων· ὑψοῦ δὲ μεταχρονίη πεφόρητο.
Εὐφημος δ' ἀνὰ πάντας ἰὼν βοάσκειν ἐταίρους,
ἐμβαλέειν κώπησιν ὅσον σθένος· οἱ δ' ἀλαλητῶ
590 κόπτον ὕδωρ· ὅσσον δ' ἂν ὑπείκαθε νηὺς ἐρέτησιν,
δις τόσον ἂν ἀπόρουσεν· ἐπεγνάμπτοντο δὲ κῶπαι
ἥύτε καμπύλα τόξα, βιαζομένων ἡρώων.
ἐνθεν δ' αὐτίκ' ἔπειτα κατηρεφὲς ἔσσυτο κῦμα,
ἡ δ' ἄφαρ ὥστε κύλινδρος ἐπέτρεχε κύματι λάβρω
595 προπροκαταῖγδην κοίλης ἁλός· ἐν δ' ἄρα μέσσαις
Πληγάσι δινῆεις εἶχεν ρόος· αἱ δ' ἐκάτερθεν
σειόμεναι βρόμεον· πεπέδητο δὲ νῆια δοῦρα.
καὶ τότε Ἀθηναίη στιβαρῆς ἀντέσπασε πέτρης
σκαιῇ, δεξιτερῇ δὲ διαμπερὲς ὥσε φέρεσθαι.
600 ἡ δ' ἱκέλη πτερόεντι μετήγορος ἔσσυτ' οἰστῶ.
ἔμπης δ' ἀφλάστοιο παρέθρισαν ἄκρα κόρυμβα
νωλεμὲς ἐμπλήξασαι ἐναντίαι· αὐτὰρ Ἀθήνη
Οὐλυμπόνδ' ἀνόρουσεν, ὅτ' ἀσκηθεῖς ὑπάλυξαν.
πέτραι δ' εἰς ἓνα χῶρον ἐπισχεδὸν ἀλλήλησιν
605 νωλεμὲς ἐρρίζωθεν, ὃ δὴ καὶ μόρσιμον ἦεν
ἐκ μακάρων, εὗτ' ἂν τις ἰδὼν διὰ νηὶ περήσῃ.
οἱ δὲ που ὀκρυόεντος ἀνέπνεον ἄρτι φόβοιο
ἡέρα παπταίνοντες ὁμοῦ πέλαγός τε θαλάσσης
τῇλ' ἀναπεπτάμενον· δὴ γὰρ φάσαν ἐξ Αἴδαο
610 σώεσθαι· Τῖφους δὲ παροίτατος ἤρχετο μύθων·
'ἔλπομαι αὐτῇ νηὶ τόγ' ἔμπεδον ἐξαλάεσθαι

ἡμέας· οὐδέ τις ἄλλος ἐπαίτιος, ὅσπον Ἀθήνη,
ἢ οἱ ἐνέπνευσεν θεῖον μένος, εὐτέ μιν Ἄργος
γόμοφισιν συνάρασσε· θέμις δ' οὐκ ἔστιν ἀλῶναι.

615 Αἰσονίδῃ, τὴν δὲ τεοῦ βασιλῆος ἐφετμήν,
εὐτε διέκ πέτρας φυγέειν θεὸς ἡμῖν ὅπασσεν,
μηκέτι δείδιθι τοῖον· ἐπεὶ μετόπισθεν ἀέθλους
εὐπαλάας τελέεσθαι Ἀγηνορίδης φάτο Φινεύς·

ἢ ῥ' ἅμα, καὶ προτέρωσε παρὰ Βιθυνίδα γαῖαν
620 νῆα διέκ πέλαγος σεῦεν μέσον. αὐτὰρ ὁ τόνγε
μειλιχίοις ἐπέεσσι παραβλήδην προσέειπεν·

Ἵψυ, τίη μοι ταῦτα παρηγορέεις ἀχέοντι;
ἥμβροτον ἀσάμην τε κακὴν καὶ ἀμήχανον ἄτην.
χρῆν γὰρ ἐφιεμένοιο καταντικρὺ Πελῖαο

625 αὐτίκ' ἀνήνασθαι τόνδε στόλον, εἰ καὶ ἔμελλον
νηλειῶς μελεῖσθι κεδαιόμενος θανέεσθαι·

νῦν δὲ περισσὸν δεῖμα καὶ ἀτλήτους μελεδῶνας
ἄγκειμαι, στυγέων μὲν ἄλδος κρυόεντα κέλευθα
νηὶ διαπλώειν, στυγέων δ', ὅτ' ἐπ' ἠπείριοι

630 βαίνωμεν. πάντη γὰρ ἀνάρσιοι ἄνδρες ἔασιν.

αἰεὶ δὲ στονόεσσαν ἐπ' ἥματι νύκτα φυλάσσω,
ἐξότε τὸ πρῶτιστον ἐμὴν χάριν ἠγερέθεσθε,
φραζόμενος τὰ ἕκαστα σὺ δ' εὐμαρέως ἀγορεύεις
οἶον ἤης ψυχῆς ἀλέγων ὕπερ· αὐτὰρ ἔγωγε

635 εἶο μὲν οὐδ' ἠβαιὸν ἀτύζομαι· ἀμφὶ δὲ τοῖο
καὶ τοῦ ὁμῶς, καὶ σεῖο, καὶ ἄλλων δείδι' ἐταίρων
εἰ μὴ ἔς Ἑλλάδα γαῖαν ἀπήμονας ὕμμε κομίσσω·

ὥς φάτ' ἀριστήων πειρώμενος· οἱ δ' ὁμάδῃσαν
θαρσαλέοις ἐπέεσσιν. ὁ δὲ φρένας ἔνδον ἰάνθη
640 κεκλομένων, καὶ ῥ' αὖτις ἐπιρρήδην μετέειπεν·

ᾧ φίλοι, ὑμετέρῃ ἀρετῇ ἔνι θάρσος ἀέξω.
τούνεκα νῦν οὐδ' εἴ κε διέξ Αἶδαο βερέθρων
στελλοίμην, ἔτι τάρβος ἀνάψομαι, εὐτε πέλεσθε
ἔμπεδοι ἀργαλέοις ἐνὶ δαίμασιν. ἀλλ' ὅτε πέτρας

645 Πληγάδας ἐξέπλωμεν, ὁίομαι οὐκ ἔτ' ὀπίσσω
ἔσσεσθαι τοιόνδ' ἕτερον φόβον, εἰ ἐτεὸν γε
φραδοσύνη Φινῆος ἐπισπόμενοι νεόμεσθα·

ὥς φάτο, καὶ τοίων μὲν ἐλώφεον αὐτίκα μύθων,
εἰρεσίῃ δ' ἀλίσστον ἔχον πόνον· αἶψα δὲ τοίγε

650 Ῥῆβαν ὠκυρόην ποταμὸν σκόπελόν τε Κολώνης,
ἄκρην δ' οὐ μετὰ δηθὰ παρεξενέοντο Μέλαιναν,
τῇ δ' ἄρ' ἐπὶ προχοᾷ Φυλληίδας, ἔνθα πάροιθεν
Διψακὸς υἱ' Ἀθάμαντος ἐοῖς ὑπέδεκτο δόμοισιν,
ὀππόθ' ἅμα κριῶ φεῦγεν πόλιν Ὀρχομενοῖο·

655 τίκτε δέ μιν νύμφη λειμωνιάς· οὐδέ οἱ ὕβρις

ἦνδανεν, ἀλλ' ἐθελημὸς ἐφ' ὕδασι πατρὸς ἐοῖο
μητέρι συνναίεσκεν ἐπάκτια πῶεα φέρβων.
τοῦ μὲν θ' ἱερὸν αἶμα, καὶ εὐρείας ποταμοῖο
ἠόννας πεδίον τε, βαθυρρεῖοντά τε Κάλπην
660 δερκόμενοι παράμειβον, ὁμῶς δ' ἐπὶ ἡματι νύκτα
νήνεμον ἀκαμάτησιν ἐπερρώοντ' ἐλάτησιν.
οἷον δὲ πλαδόωσαν ἐπισχίζοντες ἄρουραν
ἐργατῖναι μογέουσι βόες, περὶ δ' ἄσπετος ἰδρῶς
εἵβεται ἐκ λαγόνων τε καὶ αὐχένος· ὄμματα δέ σφιν
665 λοξὰ παραστρωφῶνται ὑπὸ ζυγοῦ· αὐτὰρ αὐτμῇ
αὐαλέῃ στομάτων ἄμοτον βρέμει· οἱ δ' ἐνὶ γαίῃ
χηλὰς σκηρίπτοντε πανημέριοι πονέονται.
τοῖς ἵκελοι ἥρωες ὑπὲξ ἄλδος εἵλκον ἐρετμά.
ἦμος δ' οὔτ' ἄρ' πω φάος ἄμβροτον, οὔτ' ἔτι λίην
670 ὀρφναίῃ πέλεται, λεπτὸν δ' ἐπιδέδρομε νυκτὶ
φέγγος, ὅτ' ἀμφιλύκην μιν ἀνεγρόμενοι καλέουσιν,
τῆμος ἐρημαίης νήσου λιμέν' εἰσελάσαντες
Θυριάδος, καμάτῳ πολυπῆμονι βαῖνον ἔραζε.
τοῖσι δὲ Λητοῦς υἱός, ἀνερχόμενος Λυκίηθεν
675 τῆλ' ἐπ' ἀπείρονα δῆμον Ὑπερβορέων ἀνθρώπων,
ἐξεφάνη· χρύσειοι δὲ παρειῶν ἐκάτερθεν
πλοχοὶ βοτρυνόντες ἐπερρώοντο κίοντι·
λαιῇ δ' ἀργύρεον νόμα βιόν, ἀμφὶ δὲ νότοις
ιοδόκη τετάνυστο κατωμαδόν· ἡ δ' ὑπὸ ποσσὶν
680 σείετο νῆσος ὅλη, κλύζεν δ' ἐπὶ κύματα χέρσῳ.
τοὺς δ' ἔλε θάμβος ἰδόντας ἀμήχανον· οὐδέ τις ἔτλη
ἀντίον αὐγάσασθαι ἐς ὄμματα καλὰ θεοῖο.
στὰν δὲ κάτω νεύσαντες ἐπὶ χθονός· αὐτὰρ ὁ τηλοῦ
βῆ ῥ' ἵμεναι πόντονδε δι' ἠέρος· ὁψὲ δὲ τοῖον
685 Ὀρφεὺς ἔκφατο μῦθον ἀριστήεσσι πιφαύσκων·
'εἰ δ' ἄγε δὴ νῆσον μὲν Ἐωίου Ἀπόλλωνος
τήνδ' ἱερὴν κλείωμεν, ἐπεὶ πάντεσσι φαάνθη
ἠῶος μετιών· τὰ δὲ ῥέζομεν οἷα πάρεστιν,
βωμὸν ἀναστήσαντες ἐπάκτιον· εἰ δ' ἂν ὀπίσσω
690 γαῖαν ἐς Αἰμονίην ἀσκηθέα νόστον ὀπάσση,
δὴ τότε οἱ κεραῶν ἐπὶ μηρία θήσομεν αἰγῶν.
νῦν δ' αὐτως κνίσῃ λοιβῇσί τε μειλίξασθαι
κέκλωμαι. ἀλλ' ἴληθι ἄναξ, ἴληθι φαανθεῖς.'
ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη· καὶ τοὶ μὲν ἄφαρ βωμὸν τετύκοντο
695 χερμάσιν· οἱ δ' ἀνὰ νῆσον ἐδίνεον, ἐξερέοντες
εἰ κέ τιν' ἢ κεμάδων, ἢ ἀγροτέρων ἐσίδοιεν
αἰγῶν, οἷά τε πολλὰ βαθείῃ βόσκεται ὕλη.
τοῖσι δὲ Λητοῖδης ἄγρην πόρεν· ἐκ δὲ νυ πάντων
εὐαγέως ἱερῷ ἀνὰ διπλόα μηρία βωμῷ

700 καῖον, ἐπικλείοντες Ἐώιον Ἀπόλλωνα.
 ἀμφὶ δὲ δαιομένοις εὐρὺν χορὸν ἐστήσαντο,
 καλὸν Ἱηπαιήον· Ἱηπαιήονα Φοῖβον
 μελπόμενοι· σὺν δὲ σφιν εὖς πάις Οἰάγροιο
 Βιστονίη φόρμιγγι λιγείης ἤρχεν ᾠοιδῆς·
 705 ὥς ποτε πετραίῃ ὑπὸ δειράδι Παρνησσοῖο
 Δελφύνην τόξοισι πελώριον ἐξενάριξεν,
 κοῦρος ἐὼν ἔτι γυμνός, ἔτι πλοκάμοισι γεγηθώς.
 ἰλήκοις· αἰεὶ τοι, ἄναξ, ἄτμητοι ἔθειραι,
 αἰὲν ἀδήλητοι· τὼς γὰρ θέμις. οἴοθι δ' αὐτὴ
 710 Λητῶ Κοιογένεια φίλαις ἐν χερσὶν ἀφάσσει.
 πολλὰ δὲ Κωρύκiai νύμφαι, Πλείστοιο θύγατρεις,
 θαρσύνεσκον ἔπεσσιν, Ἱήιε κεκληγυῖαι·
 ἔνθεν δὴ τόδε καλὸν ἐφύμνιον ἔπλετο Φοῖβω.
 αὐτὰρ ἐπειδὴ τόνγε χορείῃ μέλψαν ᾠοιδῇ,
 715 λοιβαῖς εὐαγέεσσιν ἐπώμοσαν, ἧ μὲν ἀρήξειν
 ἀλλήλοισι εἰσαιὲν ὁμοφροσύνησι νόοιο,
 ἀπτόμενοι θυέων· καὶ τ' εἰσέτι νῦν γε τέτυκται
 κεῖσ' Ὅμονοιῆς ἱρὸν εὐφρονος, ὃ ρ' ἐκάμοντο
 αὐτοὶ κυδίστην τότε δαίμονα πορσαίνοντες.
 720 ἦμος δὲ τρίτατον φάος ἦλυθε, δὴ τότε ἔπειτα
 ἄκραεῖ ζεφύρῳ νῆσον λίπον αἰπήεσσαν.
 ἔνθεν δ' ἀντιπέρην ποταμοῦ στόμα Σαγγαρίοιο
 καὶ Μαριανδυνῶν ἀνδρῶν ἐριθηλέα γαίαν
 ἠδὲ Λύκοιο ῥέεθρα καὶ Ἀνθεμοεισίδα λίμνην
 725 δερκόμενοι παράμειβον· ὑπὸ πνοιῇ δὲ κάλωες
 ὄπλα τε νῆια πάντα τινάσσετο νισσομένοισιν.
 ἠῶθεν δ' ἀνέμοιο διὰ κνέφας εὐνηθέντος
 ἀσπασίως ἄκρης Ἀχερουσίδος ὄρμον ἵκοντο.
 ἦ μὲν τε κρημνοῖσιν ἀνίσχεται ἠλιβάτοισιν,
 730 εἰς ἄλα δερκομένη Βιθυνίδα· τῇ δ' ὑπὸ πέτραι
 λισσάδες ἐρρίζωνται ἀλίβροχοι· ἀμφὶ δὲ τῇσιν
 κῦμα κυλινδόμενον μεγάλα βρέμει· αὐτὰρ ὑπερθεῖν
 ἀμφιλαφεῖς πλατάνιστοι ἐπ' ἀκροτάτῃ πεφύασιν.
 ἐκ δ' αὐτῆς εἶσω κατακέκλιται ἠπειρόνδε
 735 κοίλῃ ὕπαιθα νάπη, ἵνα τε σπέος ἔστ' Αἶδαο
 ὕλῃ καὶ πέτρῃσιν ἐπηρεφές, ἔνθεν αὐτμὴ
 πηγυλὶς, ὀκρυόεντος ἀναπνεύουσα μυχοῖο
 συνεχές, ἀργινόεσσαν ἀεὶ περιτέτροφε πάχνην,
 ἧ τε μεσημβριόωντος ἰαίνεται ἠελίοιο.
 740 σιγῇ δ' οὔποτε τήγγε κατὰ βλοσυρὴν ἔχει ἄκρην,
 ἀλλ' ἄμυδις πόντοιο θ' ὑπὸ στένει ἠχήεντος,
 φύλλων τε πνοιῇσι τινασσομένων μυχήσιν.
 ἔνθα δὲ καὶ προχοαὶ ποταμοῦ Ἀχέροντος ἔασιν,

ὅς τε διῆξ ἄκρης ἀνερεύγεται εἰς ἅλα βάλλων
745 ἥφην· κοίλῃ δὲ φάραγξ κατάγει μιν ἄνωθεν.
τὸν μὲν ἐν ὀνιγόνοισι Σοωναύτην ὀνόμηναν
Νισαῖοι Μεγαρήες, ὅτε νάσσεσθαι ἔμελλον
γῆν Μαριανδυνῶν. δὴ γάρ σφεας ἐξεσάωσεν
αὐτῇσιν νήεσσι, κακῇ χρίμψαντας ἀέλλῃ.
750 τῇ ρ' οἷγ' αὐτίκα νηὶ διῆξ Ἀχερουσίδος ἄκρης
εἰσωποὶ ἀνέμοιο νέον λήγοντος ἔκελσαν.
οὐδ' ἄρα δηθὰ Λύκον, κείνης πρόμον ἠπείριοι,
καὶ Μαριανδυνοὺς λάθον ἀνέρας ὀρμισθέντες
αὐθένται Ἀμύκοιο κατὰ κλέος, ὃ πρὶν ἄκουον·
755 ἀλλὰ καὶ ἄρθμὸν ἔθεντο μετὰ σφίσι τοῖο ἔκητι.
αὐτὸν δ' ὥστε θεὸν Πολυδεύκεα δεξιόωντο
πάντοθεν ἀγρόμενοι· ἐπεὶ ἦ μάλα τοίγ' ἐπὶ δηρὸν
ἀντιβίην Βέβρυξιν ὑπερφιάλοις πολέμιζον.
καὶ δὴ πασσυδὴν μεγάρων ἔντοσθε Λύκοιο
760 κεῖν' ἡμαρ φιλότῃ, μετὰ πτολίεθρον ἰόντες,
δαίτην ἀμφίεπον, τέρποντό τε θυμὸν ἔπεσσιν.
Λισονίδης μὲν οἱ γενεὴν καὶ οὔνομ' ἐκάστου
σφωιτέρων μυθεῖθ' ἐτάρων, Πελιάο τ' ἐφετμάς,
ἦδ' ὥς Λημνιάδεσσιν ἐπεξεينوῦντο γυναιξίν,
765 ὅσσα τε Κύζικον ἀμφὶ Δολιονίην ἐτέλεσσαν·
Μυσιδα δ' ὥς ἀφίκοντο Κίον θ', ὅθι κάλλιπον ἦρω
Ἡρακλέην ἀέκοντι νόῳ, Γλαύκοιό τε βάξιν
πέφραδε, καὶ Βέβρυκας ὅπως Ἀμυκόν τ' ἐδάϊξαν,
καὶ Φινῆος ἔειπε θεοπροπίας τε δύην τε,
770 ἦδ' ὥς Κυανέας πέτρας φύγον, ὥς τ' ἀβόλησαν
Λητοῖδῃ κατὰ νῆσον. ὁ δ' ἐξείης ἐνέποντος
θέλγεται ἄκουῃ θυμόν· ἄχος δ' ἔλεν Ἡρακλῆι
λειπομένῳ, καὶ τοῖον ἔπος πάντεσσι μετηύδα·
'ὦ φίλοι, οἴου φωτὸς ἀποπλαγχθέντες ἀρωγῆς
775 πείρετ' ἐς Αἰήτην τόσσον πλόον. εὐ γὰρ ἐγὼ μιν
Δασκύλου ἐν μεγάροισι καταυτόθι πατρὸς ἐμοῖο
οἶδ' ἐσιδὼν, ὅτε δεῦρο δι' Ἀσίδος ἠπείριοι
πεζὸς ἔβη ζωστῆρα φιλοπτολέμοιο κομίζων
Ἴπολύτης· ἐμὲ δ' εὗρε νέον χνοάοντα ἰούλους.
780 ἔνθα δ' ἐπὶ Πριόλαο κασιγνήτοιο θανόντος
ἡμετέρου Μυσοῖσιν ὑπ' ἀνδράσιν, ὄντινα λαὸς
οἰκτίστοις ἐλέγοισιν ὀδύρεται ἐξέτι κείνου,
ἀθλεύων Τιτὴν ἀπεκαίνυτο πυγμαχέοντα
καρτερόν, ὃς πάντεσσι μετέπρεπεν ἠιθέοισιν
785 εἰδὸς τ' ἠδὲ βίην· χαμάδις δέ οἱ ἦλασ' ὀδόντας.
αὐτὰρ ὁμοῦ Μυσοῖσιν ἐμῷ ὑπὸ πατρὶ δάμασσαν
καὶ Φρύγας, οἱ ναίουσιν ὁμώλακας ἡμιν ἀρούρας,

φῦλά τε Βιθυνῶν αὐτῇ κτεατίσσατο γαίῃ,
 ἔστ' ἐπὶ Ῥηβαίου προχοὰς σκόπελόν τε Κολώνης:
 790 Παφλαγόνες τ' ἐπὶ τοῖς Πελοπήιοι εἵκαθον αὐτῶς,
 ὄσσους Βιλλαίοιο μέλαν περιάγνυται ὕδωρ.
 ἀλλὰ με νῦν Βέβρυκες ὑπερβασίῃ τ' Ἀμύκοιο
 τηλόθι ναιετάοντος, ἐνόσφισαν, Ἡρακλῆος,
 δὴν ἀποτεμνόμενοι γαίης ἄλις, ὄφρ' ἐβάλλοντο
 795 οὔρα βαθυρρείοντος ὑφ' εἰαμεναῖς Ὑπίοιο.
 ἔμπης δ' ἔξ ὑμέων ἔδοσαν τίσιν: οὐδέ ἔφημι
 ἥματι τῷδ' ἀέκητι θεῶν ἐπελάσσαι ἄρηα,
 Τυνδαρίδην Βέβρυξιν, ὅτ' ἀνέρα κείνον ἔπεφνεν.
 τῷ νῦν ἦντιν' ἐγὼ τίσαι χάριν ἄρκιός εἰμι,
 800 τίσω προφρονέως, ἥ γὰρ θέμις ἠεοανοισιν
 ἀνδράσιν, εὖτ' ἄρξωσιν ἀρείονες ἄλλοι ὀφέλλειν.
 ξυνῇ μὲν πάντεσσιν ὁμόστολον ὕμμιν ἔπεσθαι
 Δάσκυλον ὀτρυνέω, ἐμὸν υἷα: τοῖο δ' ἰόντος,
 ἧ τ' ἂν ἐυξείνοισι διέξ ἁλὸς ἀντιάοιτε
 805 ἀνδράσιν, ὄφρ' αὐτοῖο ποτὶ στόμα Θερμώδοντος.
 νόσφι δὲ Τυνδαρίδαις Ἀχερουσίδος ὑψόθεν ἄκρης
 εἴσομαι ἱερὸν αἰπύ: τὸ μὲν μάλα τηλόθι πάντες
 ναυτίλοι ἅμ πελάγος θηεύμενοι ἰλάσσονται:
 καὶ κέ σφιν μετέπειτα πρὸ ἄστεος, οἷα θεοῖσιν,
 810 πίνοντας εὖα:ρότοιο γύας πεδίοιο ταμοίμην.'
 ὧς τότε μὲν δαῖτ' ἅμφι πανήμεροι ἐψιόωντο.
 ἦρί γε μὴν ἐπὶ νῆα κατήισαν ἐγκονέοντες:
 καὶ δ' αὐτὸς σὺν τοῖσι Λύκος κίε, μυρί' ὀπάσσας
 δῶρα φέρειν: ἅμα δ' υἷα δόμων ἔκπεμπε νέεσθαι.
 815 ἔνθα δ' Ἀβαντιάδην πεπρωμένη ἤλασε μοῖρα
 Ἰδμονα, μαντοσύνησι κεκασμένον. ἀλλὰ μιν οὔτι
 μαντοσύναι ἐσάωσαν, ἐπεὶ χρεὼ ἦγε δαμῆναι:
 κεῖτο γὰρ εἰαμενῇ δονακώδεος ἐν ποταμοῖο
 ψυχόμενος λαγόνας τε καὶ ἄσπετον ἰλύι νηδὺν
 820 κάπριος ἀργιόδων, ὀλοὸν τέρας, ὃν ῥα καὶ αὐταὶ
 νύμφαι ἐλειονόμοι ὑπεδείδισαν: οὐδέ τις ἀνδρῶν
 ἡεῖδει: οἷος δὲ κατὰ πλατὺ βόσκετο τίφος.
 αὐτὰρ ὅγ' ἰλυόεντος ἀνὰ θρωσμοὺς ποταμοῖο
 ρίσσεται Ἀβαντιάδης: ὁ δ' ἄρ' ἔκποθεν ἀφράστοιο
 825 ὕψι μάλ' ἐκ δονάκων ἀνεπάλμενος ἤλασε μηρὸν
 αἰγίδην, μέσσας δὲ σὺν ὀστέῳ ἵνας ἔκερσεν.
 ὄξυν δ' ὄγε κλάγξας οὔδει πέσεν: οἱ δὲ τυπέντος
 ἄθροοι ἀντιάχυσαν. ὀρέξατο δ' αἰψ' ὀλοοῖο
 Πηλεὺς αἰγανέῃ φύγαδ' εἰς ἔλος ὀρμηθέντος
 830 καπρίου: ἔσσυτο δ' αὖτις ἐναντίος: ἀλλὰ μιν Ἰδας
 οὔτασε, βεβρυχὼς δὲ θοῶ περικάπεσε δουρί.

καὶ τὸν μὲν χαμάδις λίπον αὐτόθι πεπηῶτα·
τὸν δ' ἔταροι ἐπὶ νῆα φέρον ψυχορραγέοντα,
ἀχνύμενοι, χεῖρεσσι δ' ἑῶν ἐνικάθαν' ἐταίρων.
835 ἔνθα δὲ ναυτιλὴς μὲν ἐρητύοντο μέλεσθαι,
ἀμφὶ δὲ κηδεῖη νέκυος μένον ἀσχαλόωντες.
ἤματα δὲ τρία πάντα γόων· ἐτέρῳ δέ μιν ἦδη
τάρχχον μεγαλωστί· συνεκτερείζε δὲ λαὸς
αὐτῷ ὁμοῦ βασιλῇ Λύκῳ· παρὰ δ' ἄσπετα μῆλα,
840 ἢ θέμις οἰχομένοισι, ταφήια λαιμοτόμησαν.
καὶ δὴ τοι κέχυται τοῦδ' ἀνέρος ἐν χθονὶ κείνῃ
τύμβος· σῆμα δ' ἔπεστι καὶ ὀψιγόνοισιν ιδέσθαι,
νηίου ἐκ κοτίνιοιο φάλαγξ· θαλέθει δέ τε φύλλοις
ἄκρης τυτθὸν ἔνερθ' Ἀχερουσίδος· εἰ δέ με καὶ τὸ
845 χρεῖῳ ἀπηλεγέως Μουσέων ὕπο γηρύσασθαι,
τόνδε πολισσοῦχον διεπέφραδε Βοιωτοῖσιν
Νισαίοισι τε Φοῖβος ἐπιρρήδην ἰλάεσθαι,
ἀμφὶ δὲ τήνγε φάλαγγα παλαιγενέος κοτίνιοιο
ἄστρῳ βαλεῖν· οἱ δ' ἀντὶ θεουδέος Αἰολίδας
850 Ἰδμονος εἰσέτι νῦν Ἀγαμήστορα κυδαίνουσιν.
τίς γάρ δὴ θάνεν ἄλλος; ἐπεὶ καὶ ἔτ' αὖτις ἔχευαν
ἦρωες τότε τύμβον ἀποφθιμένου ἐτάριοιο.
δοιὰ γὰρ οὖν κείνων ἔτι σήματα φαίνεται ἀνδρῶν.
Ἀγνιάδην Τίφον θανέειν φάτις· οὐδέ οἱ ἦεν
855 μοῖρ' ἔτι ναυτίλλεσθαι ἑκαστέρῳ. ἀλλὰ νῦ καὶ τὸν
αὐθὶ μινυνθαδὴ πάτρης ἐκὰς εὐνασε νοῦσος,
εἰσότ' Ἀβαντιάδαο νέκυν κτερέιξεν ὄμιλος.
ἄτλητον δ' ὅλοῳ ἐπὶ πῆματι κῆδος ἔλοντο.
δὴ γὰρ ἐπεὶ καὶ τόνδε παρασχεδὸν ἐκτερείξαν
860 αὐτοῦ, ἀμηχανίησιν ἁλὸς προπάροιθε πεσόντες,
ἐντυπὰς εὐκλήως εἰλυμένοι οὔτε τι σίτου
μῶνONT' οὔτε ποτοῖο· κατήμυσαν δ' ἀχέεσσιν
θυμόν, ἐπεὶ μάλα πολλὸν ἀπ' ἐλπίδος ἔπλετο νόστος.
καὶ νῦ κ' ἔτι προτέρῳ τετιημένοι ἰσχανόωντο,
865 εἰ μὴ ἄρ' Ἀγκαίῳ περιώσιον ἔμβαλεν Ἥρῃ
θάρσος, ὃν Ἰμβρασίοισι παρ' ὕδαςιν Ἀστυπάλαια
τίκτε Ποσειδάωνι· περιπρὸ γὰρ εὖ ἐκέκαστο
ἰθύνειν, Πηλῆα δ' ἐπεσσύμενος προσέειπεν·
'Αἰακίδη, πῶς καλὸν ἀφειδήσαντας ἀέθλων
870 γαίῃ ἐν ἄλλοδαπῇ δὴν ἔμμεναι; οὐ μὲν ἄρῃος
ἴδριν ἐόντά με τόσσον ἄγει μετὰ κῶας Ἰήσων
παρθενίης ἀπάνευθεν, ὅσον τ' ἐπίστορα νηῶν.
τῷ μὴ μοι τυτθὸν γε δέος περὶ νηὶ πελέσθω.
ὣς δὲ καὶ ὦλλοι δεῦρο δαήμονες ἄνδρες ἕασιν,
875 τῶν ὅτινα πρύμνης ἐπιβήσομεν, οὔτις ἰάψει

ναυτιλίην. ἀλλ' ὦκα, παραιφάμενος τάδε πάντα,
 θαρσαλέως ὀρόθυνον ἐπιμνήσασθαι ἀέθλου.'
 ὧς φάτο: τοῖο δὲ θυμὸς ὀρέξατο γηθοσύνησιν.
 αὐτίκα δ' οὐ μετὰ δηρὸν ἐνὶ μέσσοις ἀγόρευσεν:
 880 'δαιμόνιοι, τί νυ πένθος ἐτώσιον ἴσχομεν αὐτως;
 οἱ μὲν γάρ ποθι τοῦτον, ὃν ἔλλαχον, οἶτον ὄλοντο:
 ἡμῖν δ' ἐν γὰρ ἔασι κυβερνητῆρες ὁμίλῳ,
 καὶ πολέες. τῷ μὴ τι διατριβώμεθα πείρης:
 ἀλλ' ἔγρεσθ' εἰς ἔργον, ἀπορρίψαντες ἀνίας.'
 885 τὸν δ' αὖτ' Αἴσονος υἱὸς ἀμηχανέων προσέειπεν:
 'Αἰακίδη, πῇ δ' οἶδε κυβερνητῆρες ἔασιν;
 οὓς μὲν γὰρ τὸ πάροιθε δαήμονας εὐχόμεθ' εἶναι,
 οἱ δὲ κατηφήσαντες ἐμεῦ πλέον ἀσχαλῶσιν.
 τῷ καὶ ὁμοῦ φθιμένοισι κακὴν προτιόσσομαι ἄτην,
 890 εἰ δὴ μήτ' ὀλοοῖο μετὰ πτόλιν Αἰήταο
 ἔσσεται, ἥε καὶ αὖτις ἐς Ἑλλάδα γαῖαν ἰκέσθαι
 πετράων ἔκτοσθε, κατ' αὐτόθι δ' ἄμμε καλύψει
 ἀκλειῶς κακὸς οἶτος, ἐτώσια γηράσκοντας.'
 ὧς ἔφατ': Ἀγκαῖος δὲ μάλ' ἐσσυμένως ὑπέδεκτο
 895 νῆα θοὴν ἄξιειν: δὴ γὰρ θεοῦ ἐτράπεθ' ὄρμη.
 τὸν δὲ μετ' Ἐργῖνος καὶ Ναύπλιος Εὐφημὸς τε
 ὦρνυντ', ἰθύνειν λελιημένοι. ἀλλ' ἄρα τούσγε
 ἔσχεθον: Ἀγκαίῳ δὲ πολλεῖς ἦνυσαν ἐταίρων.
 Ἥῳι δῆπεια δυωδεκάτῳ ἐπέβαινον
 900 ἥματι: δὴ γὰρ σφιν ζεφύρου μέγας οὖρος ἤητο.
 καρπαλίμως δ' Ἀχέροντα διεξεπέρησαν ἑρετμοῖς,
 ἐκ δ' ἔχραν πίσυνοι ἀνέμῳ λῖνα, πουλὺ δ' ἐπιπρὸ
 λαιφέων πεπταμένων τέμνον πλόον εὐδιόωντες.
 ὦκα δὲ Καλλιχόροιο παρὰ προχοᾷς ποταμοῖο
 905 ἤλυθον, ἐνθ' ἐνέπουσι Διὸς Νυσήιον υἴα,
 Ἴνδῶν ἥνικα φῦλα λιπὼν κατενάσσατο Θήβας,
 ὀργιάσαι, στήσαι τε χοροὺς ἄντροιο πάροιθεν,
 ᾧ ἐν ἀμειδῆτους ἀγίας ηὐλίζετο νύκτας,
 ἐξ οὗ Καλλίχορον ποταμὸν περιναιετάοντες
 910 ἠδὲ καὶ Αὐλῖον ἄντρον ἐπωνυμίην καλέουσιν.
 ἐνθεν δὲ Σθενέλου τάφον ἔδρακον Ἀκτορίδαο,
 ὅς ῥά τ' Ἀμαζονίδων πολυθαρσέος ἐκ πολέμοιο
 ἄψ ἀνίων — δὴ γὰρ συνανήλυθεν Ἡρακλεῖ —
 βλήμενος ἰὼ κεῖθεν ἐπ' ἀγχιάλου θάνεν ἀκτῆς.
 915 οὐ μὲν θην προτέρῳ ἔτ' ἐμέτρεον. ἦκε γὰρ αὐτὴ
 Φερσεφώνη ψυχὴν πολυδάκρυον Ἀκτορίδαο
 λισσομένην τυτθὸν περ ὁμήθεας ἄνδρας ἰδέσθαι.
 τύμβου δὲ στεφάνης ἐπιβάς σκοπιάζετο νῆα
 τοῖος ἐὼν, οἷος πόλεμόνδ' ἶεν: ἀμφὶ δὲ καλῇ

920 τετράφαλος φοῖνικι λόφῳ ἐπελάμπετο πῆληξ.
 καί ῥ' ὁ μὲν αὖτις ἔδυνε μέγαν ζόφον· οἱ δ' ἐσιδόντες
 θάμβησαν· τοὺς δ' ὥρσε θεοπροπέων ἐπικέλσαι
 Ἀμπυκίδης Μόψος λοιβῆσί τε μειλίζασθαι.
 οἱ δ' ἀνὰ μὲν κραιπνῶς λαῖφος σπάσαν, ἐκ δὲ βαλόντες
 925 πείσματα· ἐν αἰγιαλῷ Σθενέλου τάφον ἀμφεπένοντο,
 χύτλα τέ οἱ χεύοντο, καὶ ἤγνισαν ἔντομα μῆλων.
 ἄνδιχα δ' αὖ χύτλων νηοσσόφῳ Ἀπόλλωνι
 βωμόν δειμάμενοι μῆρ' ἔφλεγον ἄν δὲ καὶ Ὀρφεὺς
 θῆκε λύρην· ἐκ τοῦ δὲ Λύρη πέλει οὔνομα χώρῳ.
 930 αὐτίκα δ' οἷγ' ἀνέμοιο κατασπέρχοντος ἔβησαν
 νῆ' ἔπι· κὰδ δ' ἄρα λαῖφος ἐρυσσάμενοι τανύοντο
 ἐς πόδας ἀμφοτέρους· ἡ δ' ἐς πέλαγος πεφόρητο
 ἔντενές, ἥτε τίς τε δι' ἡέρος ὑψόθι κίρκος
 ταρσὸν ἐφείς πνοιῇ φέρεται ταχύς, οὐδὲ τινάσσει
 935 ῥιπὴν, εὐκῆλοισιν ἐνευδιόων πετρύγεσσι.
 καὶ δὴ Παρθενίοιο ῥοὰς ἀλμυρῆεντος,
 πρηυτάτου ποταμοῦ, παρεμέτρεον, ᾧ ἔνι κούρη
 Λητωίς, ἄγρηθεν ὅτ' οὐρανὸν εἰσαναβαίνει,
 ὃν δέμας ἱμερτοῖσιν ἀναψύχει ὑδάτεσσιν.
 940 νυκτί δ' ἔπειτ' ἄλληκτον ἐπιπροτέρωσε θέοντες
 σήσαμον αἰπεινούς τε παρεξενέοντ' Ἐρυθίνους,
 Κρωβιάλον, Κρώμναν τε καὶ ὑλήεντα Κύτωρον.
 ἔνθεν δ' αὖτε Κάραμβιν ἄμ' ἡελίοιο βολῆσιν
 γνάμψαντες παρὰ πουλὸν ἔπειτ' ἤλαυνον ἐρετμοῖς
 945 αἰγιαλὸν πρόπαν ἤμαρ ὁμῶς καὶ ἐπ' ἤματι φύκτα.
 αὐτίκα δ' Ἀσσυρίης ἐπέβαν χθονός, ἔνθα Σινώπην,
 θυγατέρ' Ἀσσωποῖο, καθίσσατο, καὶ οἱ ὅπασσεν
 παρθενίην Ζεὺς αὐτός, ὑποσχεσίησι δολωθεῖς.
 δὴ γὰρ ὁ μὲν φιλότιτος ἐέλδετο· νεῦσε δ' ὄγ' αὐτῇ
 950 δωσέμεναι, ὃ κεν ἦσι μετὰ φρεσὶν ἰθύσειεν.
 ἡ δὲ ἐπαρθενίην ἠτήσατο κερδοσύνησιν.
 ὥς δὲ καὶ Ἀπόλλωνα παρήπαφεν εὐνηθῆναι
 ἰέμενον, ποταμόν τ' ἐπὶ τοῖς Ἄλυν· οὐδὲ μὲν ἀνδρῶν
 τήνγε τις ἱμερτῆσιν ἐν ἀγκοίνῃσι δάμασσεν.
 955 ἔνθα δὲ Τρικκαίοιο ἀγαυοῦ Δημιάχοιο
 υἱέας, Δηιλέων τε καὶ Αὐτόλυκος Φλογίος τε
 τῆμος ἔθ', Ἡρακλῆος ἀποπλαγχθέντες, ἔναιον·
 οἳ ῥα τόθ', ὥς ἐνόησαν ἀριστήων στόλον ἀνδρῶν,
 σφᾶς αὐτοὺς νημερτέας ἐπέφραδον ἀντιάσαντες·
 960 οὐδ' ἔτι μιμνάζειν θέλον ἔμπεδον, ἀλλ' ἐνὶ νηί,
 Ἀργέσταο παρᾶσσον ἐπιπνείοντος, ἔβησαν.
 τοῖσι δ' ὁμοῦ μετέπειτα θοῇ πεφορημένοι αὖρῃ
 λειπὸν Ἄλυν ποταμόν, λειπὸν δ' ἀγχίρροον Ἴριν,

ἥδ' ἐ καὶ Ἀσσυρίης πρόχυσιν χθονός· ἤματι δ' αὐτῷ
 965 γνάμψαν Ἀμαζονίδων ἔκαθεν λιμενήοχον ἄκρην.
 ἔνθα ποτὲ προμολοῦσαν Ἀρητιάδα Μελανίπην
 ἥρως Ἡρακλῆς ἐλόχησато, καὶ οἱ ἅποινα
 Ἴπολύτη ζωστήρα παναίολον ἐγγυάλιξεν
 ἀμφὶ κασιγνήτης· ὁ δ' ἀπήμονα πέμψεν ὅπισσιν.
 970 τῆς οἷγ' ἐν κόλπῳ, προχοαῖς ἐπὶ Θερμώδοντος,
 κέλσαν, ἐπεὶ καὶ πόντος ὀρίνετο νισσομένοισιν.
 τῷ δ' οὔτις ποταμῶν ἐναλίγκιος, οὐδὲ ῥέεθρα
 τόσσ' ἐπὶ γαῖαν ἴησι παρέξ ἔθεν ἄνδιχα βάλλων.
 τετράκις εἰς ἑκατὸν δευοιτό κεν, εἴ τις ἕκαστα
 975 πεμπάζοι· μία δ' οἷη ἐτήτυμος ἔπλετο πηγῇ.
 ἡ μὲν τ' ἐξ ὀρέων κατανίσσεται ἡπειρόνδε
 ὑψηλῶν, ἃ τέ φασιν Ἀμαζόνια κλείεσθαι.
 ἔνθεν δ' αἰπυτέρην ἐπικίδνεται ἔνδοθι γαῖαν
 ἀντικρὺ· τῷ καὶ οἱ ἐπίστροφοί εἰσι κέλευθοι·
 980 αἰεὶ δ' ἄλλυδις ἄλλη, ὅπη κύρσειε μάλιστα
 ἡπείρου χθαμαλῆς, εἰλίσσεται· ἡ μὲν ἄπωθεν,
 ἡ δὲ πέλας· πολέες δὲ πόροι νώνυμοι ἔασιν,
 ὅπη ὑπεξαφύονται· ὁ δ' ἀμφοδὸν ἄμμιγα παύροις
 πόντον ἔς Ἀξείνον κυρτὴν ὑπερεύγεται ἄκρην.
 985 καὶ νῦ κε δηθύνοντες Ἀμαζονίδεσσιν ἔμιξαν
 ὑσμίνην, καὶ δ' οὐ κεν ἀναιμωτὶ γ' ἐρίδηναν —
 οὐ γὰρ Ἀμαζονίδες μάλ' ἐπήτιδες, οὐδὲ θέμιστας
 τίουσai πεδίον Διοάντιον ἀμφενέμοντο·
 ἀλλ' ὕβρις στονόεσσα καὶ Ἄρεος ἔργα μεμῆλει·
 990 δὴ γὰρ καὶ γενεὴν ἔσαν Ἄρεος Ἀρμονίης τε
 νύμφης, ἥ τ' Ἀρῇ φιλοπτολέμους τέκε κούρας,
 ἄλσεος Ἀκμονίοιο κατὰ πτύχας εὐνηθεῖσα —
 εἰ μὴ ἄρ' ἐκ Διόθεν πνοιαί πάλιν Ἀργέσταο
 ἦλυθον· οἱ δ' ἀνέμῳ περιγηέα κάλλιπον ἀκτὴν,
 995 ἔνθα Θεμισκύρειαι Ἀμαζόνες ὀπλίζοντο.
 οὐ γὰρ ὁμηγερέες μίαν ἄμ πόλιν, ἀλλ' ἀνὰ γαῖαν
 κεκριμέναι κατὰ φῦλα διάτριχα ναιετάασκον·
 νόσφι μὲν αἰδ' αὐταί, τῇσιν τότε κοιρανέεσκεν
 Ἴπολύτη, νόσφιν δὲ Λυκάστια ἀμφενέμοντο,
 1000 νόσφι δ' ἀκοντοβόλοι Χαδῆσiai. ἤματι δ' ἄλλῳ
 νυκτὶ τ' ἐπιπλομένη Χαλύβων παρὰ γαῖαν ἵκοντο.
 τοῖσι μὲν οὔτε βοῶν ἄροτος μέλει, οὔτε τις ἄλλη
 φυταλιὴ καρποῖο μελίφρονος· οὐδὲ μὲν οἷγε
 ποιίνας ἐρσήεντι νομῷ ἐνι ποιμαίνουσιν.
 1005 ἀλλὰ σιδηροφόρον στυφελὴν χθόνα γατομέοντες
 ὦνον ἀμείβονται βιοτήσιον, οὐδέ ποτέ σφιν
 ἥως ἀντέλλει καμάτων ἄτερ, ἀλλὰ κελαινῇ

λιγνύι καὶ καπνῷ κάματον βαρὺν ὀτλεῦουσιν.
 τοὺς δὲ μετ' αὐτίκ' ἔπειτα Γενηταίου Διὸς ἄκρην
 1010 γνάμψαντες σῶοντο παρὲκ Τιβαρηνίδα γαῖαν.
 ἔνθ' ἐπεὶ ἄρ κε τέκωνται ὑπ' ἀνδράσι τέκνα γυναικες,
 αὐτοὶ μὲν στενάχουσιν ἐνὶ λεχέεσσι πεσόντες,
 κράατα δησάμενοι· ταὶ δ' εὖ κομέουσιν ἐδωδῇ
 ἀνέρας, ἥδὲ λοετρὰ λεχώια τοῖσι πένονται.
 1015 ἶρὸν δ' αὖτ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ὄρος καὶ γαῖαν ἄμειβον,
 ἧ ἔνι Μοσσύνοικοι ἀν' οὖρεα ναιετάουσιν
 μόσσουνας, καὶ δ' αὐτοὶ ἐπώνυμοι ἔνθεν ἔασιν.
 ἀλλοίη δὲ δίκη καὶ θέσμια τοῖσι τέτυκται.
 ὅσσα μὲν ἀμφαδίην ρέζειν θέμις, ἧ ἐνὶ δῆμῳ,
 1020 ἧ ἀγορῇ, τάδε πάντα δόμοις ἐνὶ μηχανόωνται·
 ὅσσα δ' ἐνὶ μεγάροις πεπονήμεθα, κεῖνα θύραζε
 ἀπγεγέως μέσσησιν ἐνὶ ρέζουσιν ἀγυαῖς.
 οὐδ' εὐνῆς αἰδῶς ἐπιδήμιος, ἀλλὰ, σῦες ὥς
 φορβάδες, οὐδ' ἡβαιὸν ἀτυζόμενοι παρεόντας,
 1025 μίσγονται χαμάδις ξυνῇ φιλότῃτι γυναικῶν.
 αὐτὰρ ἐν ὑψίστῳ βασιλεὺς μόσσουνι θαάσσων
 ἰθείας πολέεσσι δίκας λαοῖσι δικάζει,
 σχέτλιος. ἦν γάρ πού τί θεμιστεύων ἀλίτῃται,
 λιμῷ μιν κεῖν' ἤμαρ ἐνικλείσαντες ἔχουσιν.
 1030 τοὺς παρανισσόμενοι καὶ δὴ σχεδὸν ἀντιπέρηθεν
 νήσου Ἀρητιάδος τέμνον πλόον εἰρεσίησιν
 ἡμάτιοι· λιαρὴ γάρ ὑπὸ κνέφας ἔλλιπεν αὖρη.
 ἦδη καὶ τιν' ὕπερθεν Ἀρήιον αἰσσοντα
 ἐνναέτην νήσοιο δι' ἡέρος ὄρνιν ἴδοντο,
 1035 ὃς ῥα τιναζάμενος πτέρυγας κατὰ νῆα θέουσαν
 ἦκ' ἐπὶ οἱ πτερὸν ὀξύ· τὸ δ' ἐν λαιῷ πέσεν ὦμο
 δίου Ὀιλήος· μεθέηκε δὲ χερσὶν ἐρετμὸν
 βλήμενος· οἱ δὲ τάφον πετρόεν βέλος εἰσορόωντες.
 καὶ τὸ μὲν ἐξείρυσσε παρεδριῶν Ἐρυβώτης,
 1040 ἔλκος δὲ ξυνέδησεν, ἀπὸ σφετέρου κολεοῖο
 λυσάμενος τελαμῶνα κατήγορον· ἐκ δ' ἐφάνθη
 ἄλλος ἐπὶ προτέρῳ πεποτημένος· ἀλλὰ μιν ἦρως
 Εὐρυτίδης Κλυτίος — πρὸ γὰρ ἀγκύλα τεῖνατο τόξα,
 ἦκε δ' ἐπ' οἰωνὸν ταχινὸν βέλος — αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα
 1045 πλῆξεν· δινηθεῖς δὲ θοῆς πέσεν ἀγχόθι νηός.
 τοῖσιν δ' Ἀμφιδάμας μυθήσατο, παῖς Ἀλεοῖο·
 'νήσος μὲν πέλας ἦμιν Ἀρητιάς· ἴστε καὶ αὐτοὶ
 τοῦσδ' ὄρνιθας ἰδόντες. ἐγὼ δ' οὐκ ἔλπομαι ἰοὺς
 τόσσον ἐπαρκέσσειν εἰς ἔκβασιν. ἀλλὰ τιν' ἄλλην
 1050 μῆτιν πορσύνωμεν ἐπίρροθον, εἴ γ' ἐπικέλσαι
 μέλλετε, Φινῆος μεμνημένοι, ὥς ἐπέτελλεν.

οὐδὲ γὰρ Ἡρακλῆς, ὅπότε ἤλυθεν Ἀρκαδίηνδε,
πλωΐδας ὄρνιθας Στυφαλίδας ἔσθενε λίμνης
ὥσασθαι τόξοισι, τὸ μὲν τ' ἐγὼ αὐτὸς ὅπωπα.

1055 ἀλλ' ὅγε χαλκείην πλατάγην ἐνὶ χερσὶ τινάσσω
δοῦπει ἐπὶ σκοπιῆς περιμήκεος· αἱ δ' ἐφέβοντο
τηλοῦ, ἀτυζηλῶ ὑπὸ δείματι κεκληγυῖαι.
τῷ καὶ νῦν τοίην τιν' ἐπιφραζώμεθα μῆτιν·
αὐτὸς δ' ἂν τὸ πάροιθεν ἐπιφρασθεὶς ἐνέποιμι.

1060 ἀνθέμενοι κεφαλῇσιν ἀερσιλόφους τρυφαλείας,
ἡμίσεες μὲν ἐρέσσει· ἀμοιβαδὶς, ἡμίσεες δὲ
δοῦρασί τε ξυστοῖσι καὶ ἀσπίσιν ἄρσετε νῆα.
αὐτὰρ πασσυδίῃ περιώσιον ὄρνυτ' αὐτὴν
ἄθροοι, ὄφρα κολῶν ἀηθείῃ φοβέωνται

1065 νεύοντάς τε λόφους καὶ ἐπήορα δούραθ' ὕπερθεν.
εἰ δέ κεν αὐτὴν νῆσον ἰκώμεθα, δὴ τότε ἔπειτα
σὺν κελάδῳ σακέεσσι πελώριον ὄρσετε δοῦπον·
ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη· πάντεσσι δ' ἐπίρροθος ἦνδανε μῆτις.
ἀμφὶ δὲ χαλκείας κόρυθας κεφαλῇσιν ἔθεντο

1070 δεινὸν λαμπομένας, ἐπὶ δὲ λόφοι ἐσσεῖοντο
φοινίκεοι. καὶ τοὶ μὲν ἀμοιβήδην ἐλάσκον·
τοὶ δ' αὖτ' ἐγγείησι καὶ ἀσπίσι νῆ' ἐκάλυψαν.
ὥς δ' ὅτε τις κεράμῳ κατερέψεται ἐρκίον ἀνήρ,
δόματος ἀγλαΐην τε καὶ ὑετοῦ ἔμμεναι ἄλκαρ,

1075 ἄλλω δ' ἔμπεδον ἄλλος ὁμῶς ἐπαμοιβὸς ἄρῃεν·
ὥς οἷγ' ἀσπίσι νῆα συναρτύναντες ἔρεψαν.
οἷη δὲ κλαγγὴ δῆου πέλει ἐξ ὁμάδοιο
ἀνδρῶν κινυμένων, ὅπότε ξυνίωσι φάλαγγες,
τοίη ἄρ' ὑψόθι νηὸς ἐς ἡέρα κίδνατ' αὐτή.

1080 οὐδέ τιν' οἰωνῶν ἔτ' ἐσέδρακον, ἀλλ' ὅτε νήσῳ
χρίμψαντες σακέεσσιν ἐπέκτυπον, αὐτίκ' ἄρ' οἶγε
μυρίοι ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα πεφυζότες ἠερέθοντο.
ὥς δ' ὅποτε Κρονίδης πυκινὴν ἐφέηκε χάλαζαν
ἐκ νεφέων ἀνά τ' ἄστυ καὶ οἰκία, τοὶ δ' ὑπὸ τοῖσιν

1085 ἐνναέται κόναβον τεγέων ὕπερ εἰσαΐοντες
ἦνται ἀκήν, ἐπεὶ οὐ σφε κατέλλαβε χεῖματος ὥρη
ἀπροφάτως, ἀλλὰ πρὶν ἐκαρτύναντο μέλαθρον·
ὥς πυκινὰ πτερὰ τοῖσιν ἐφίεσαν αἰσσοντες
ὑψὶ μάλ' ἄμ πέλαγος περάτης εἰς οὔρεα γαίης.

1090 τίς γὰρ δὴ Φινῆος ἔην νόος, ἐνθάδε κέλσαι
ἀνδρῶν ἡρώων θεῖον στόλον; ἦ καὶ ἔπειτα
ποῖον ὄνειαρ ἔμελλεν ἐελδομένοισιν ἰκέσθαι;
υἱῆς Φρίξοιο μετὰ πτόλιν Ὀρχομενοῖο
ἐξ Αἴης ἐνέοντο παρ' Αἰήταο Κυταίου,

1095 Κολχίδα νῆ' ἐπιβάντες, ἵν' ἄσπετον ὄλβον ἄρωνται

πατρός· ὁ γὰρ θνήσκων ἐπετείλατο τήνδε κέλευθον.
καὶ δὴ ἔσαν νήσοιο μάλα σχεδὸν ἤματι κείνῳ.
Ζεὺς δ' ἀνέμου βορέαο μένος κίνησεν ἄηνα,
ὔδατι σημαίνων διερὴν ὁδὸν Ἀρκτούροιο:
1100 αὐτὰρ ὃγ' ἡμάτιος μὲν ἐν οὔρεσι φύλλ' ἐτίνασσαν
τυτθὸν ἐπ' ἀκροτάτοισιν ἀήσυρος ἀκρεμόνεσσιν·
νυκτὶ δ' ἔβη πόντονδε πελώριος, ὥρσε δὲ κύμα
κεκληγῶς πνοιῇσι· κελαινὴ δ' οὐρανὸν ἀχλὺς
ἄμπεχεν, οὐδέ πη ἄστρα διαυγέα φαίνεται ἰδέσθαι
1105 ἐκ νεφέων, σκοτοίεις δὲ περὶ ζόφος ἠρήρειστο.
οἱ δ' ἄρα μυδαλέοι, στυγερὸν τρομέοντες ὄλεθρον,
υἷης Φρίξιο φέρονθ' ὑπὸ κύμασιν αὐτῶς.
ἰστία δ' ἐξήρπαξ' ἀνέμου μένος, ἥδὲ καὶ αὐτὴν
νῆα διάνδιχ' ἔαξε τινασσομένην ῥοθίοισιν.
1110 ἔνθα δ' ὑπ' ἐννεσίῃσι θεῶν πίσυρές περ ἐόντες
δούρατος ὠρέξαντο πελωρίου, οἷά τε πολλὰ
ῥαισθείσης κεκέδαστο θόοις συναρηρότα γόμοις.
καὶ τοὺς μὲν νῆσόνδε, παρὲς ὀλίγον θανάτοιο,
κύματα καὶ ῥιπαὶ ἀνέμου φέρον ἀσχαλόωντας.
1115 αὐτίκα δ' ἐρράγη ὄμβρος ἀθέσφατος, ὕε δὲ πόντον
καὶ νῆσον καὶ πᾶσαν ὅσην κατεναντία νήσου
χώρην Μοσσύνοικοι ὑπέρβιοι ἀμφενέμοντο.
τοὺς δ' ἄμυδις κρατερῶ σὺν δούρατι κύματος ὀρμῇ
υἷας Φρίξιο μετ' ἠιόνας βάλε νήσου
1120 νύχθ' ὑπο λυγαίνῃ· τὸ δὲ μυρίον ἐκ Διὸς ὕδωρ
λῆξεν ἅμ' ἡελίῳ· τάχα δ' ἐγγύθεν ἀντεβόλησαν
ἀλλήλοισι, Ἄργος δὲ παροίτατος ἔκφατο μῦθον·
'Ἄντόμεθα πρὸς Ζηνὸς Ἐποπιίου, οἵτινές ἐστε
ἀνδρῶν, εὐμενέειν τε καὶ ἀρκέσσαι χατέουσιν.
1125 πόντῳ γὰρ τρηχεῖαι ἐπιβρίσασαι ἄλλαι
νῆδες ἀεικελὴς διὰ δούρατα πάντ' ἐκέδασσαν,
ἧ ἔνι πείρομεν οἶμον ἐπὶ χρέος ἐμβεβαῶτες.
τύνεκα νῦν ὑμέας γουναζόμεθ', αἶ κε πίθησθε,
δοῦναι ὅσον τ' εἴλωμα περὶ χροός, ἥδὲ κομίσσαι
1130 ἀνέρας οἰκτείραντας ὁμήλικας ἐν κακότητι.
ἀλλ' ἰκέτας ξείνους Διὸς εἵνεκεν αἰδέσασσθε
ξείνιου Ἴκεσίου τε· Διὸς δ' ἅμφω ἰκέται τε
καὶ ξεῖνοι· ὁ δέ που καὶ ἐπόπιος ἅμμι τέτυκται.
τὸν δ' αὖτ' Αἴσονος υἱὸς ἐπιφραδέως ἐρέεινεν,
1135 μαντοσύνας Φινῆος οἰσάμενος τελέεσθαι·
'ταῦτα μὲν αὐτίκα πάντα παρέξομεν εὐμενέοντες.
ἀλλ' ἄγε μοι κατάλεξον ἐτήτυμον, ὅππῃθι γαίης
ναίετε, καὶ χρέος οἶον ὑπεῖρ ἄλα νεῖσθαι ἀνώγει,
αὐτῶν θ' ὑμείων ὄνομα κλυτὸν, ἥδὲ γενέθλην.'

1140 τὸν δ' Ἄργος προσέειπεν ἀμηχανέων κακότητι:
 'Αἰολίδην Φρίξον τιν' ἄφ' Ἑλλάδος Αἴαν ἰκέσθαι
 ἀτρεκέως δοκέω που ἀκούετε καὶ πάρος αὐτοί,
 Φρίξον, ὅτις πτολίεθρον ἀνήλυθεν Αἰήταο,
 κριοῦ ἐπεμβεβαώς, τὸν ῥα χρύσειον ἔθηκεν
 1145 Ἑρμείας· κῶας δὲ καὶ εἰσέτι νῦν κεν ἴδοισθε.
 τὸν μὲν ἔπειτ' ἔρρεξεν ἑῆς ὑποθημοσύνησιν
 Φυξίῳ ἐκ πάντων Κρονίδῃ Διί. καὶ μιν ἔδεκτο
 Αἰήτης μεγάρῳ, κούρην τέ οἱ ἐγγυάλιξεν
 Χαλκιοῖπν ἀνάεδνον εὐφροσύνησι νόοιο.
 1150 τῶν ἐξ ἀμφοτέρων εἰμὲν γένος. ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν ἤδη
 γηραιὸς θάνε Φρίξος ἐν Λιήταο δόμοισιν:
 ἡμεῖς δ' αὐτίκα πατρὸς ἐφετμῶν ἀλέγοντες
 νεύμεθ' ἐς Ὀρχομενὸν κτεάνων Ἀθάμαντος ἔκρη.
 εἰ δὲ καὶ οὖνομα δῆθεν ἐπιθύεις δεδαῆσθαι,
 1155 τῷδε Κυτίσσωρος πέλει οὖνομα, τῷ δέ τε Φρόντις,
 τῷ δὲ Μέλας· ἐμὲ δ' αὐτὸν ἐπικλείοιτέ κεν Ἄργον.'
 ὧς φάτ'· ἄριστῆες δὲ συνηβολίῃ κεχάροντο,
 καὶ σφεας ἀμφίεπον περιθαμβέες. αὐτὰρ Ἴησων
 ἐξαυτίς κατὰ μοῖραν ἀμείψατο τοῖσδ' ἐπέεσσιν:
 1160 'ἦ ἄρα δὴ γνωτοὶ πατρώιοι ἄμμιν ἔοντες
 λίσσεσθ' εὐμενέοντας ἐπαρκέσσαι κακότητα.
 Κρηθεὺς γάρ ῥ' Ἀθάμας τε κασίγνητοὶ γεγάασιν.
 Κρηθῆος δ' υἱὸνδὸς ἐγὼ σὺν τοισίδ' ἐταίροις
 Ἑλλάδος ἐξ αὐτῆς νέομ' ἐς πόλιν Αἰήταο.
 1165 ἀλλὰ τὰ μὲν καὶ αὐτίς ἐνίφομεν ἀλλήλοισιν.
 νῦν δ' ἔσασσθε πάροιθεν· ὑπ' ἐννεσίῃσι δ' οἴω
 ἀθανάτων ἐς χεῖρας ἐμὰς χατέοντας ἰκέσθαι.'
 ἦ ῥα, καὶ ἐκ νηὸς δῶκέ σφισιν εἴματα δῦναι.
 πασσυδίῃ δῆπειτα κίον μετὰ νηὸν Ἄρηος,
 1170 μῆλ' ἱερευσόμενοι· περὶ δ' ἐσχάρῃ ἐστήσαντο
 ἐσσυμένως, ἦ τ' ἐκτὸς ἀνηρεφὸς πέλε νηοῦ
 στιάων· εἴσω δὲ μέλας λίθος ἠρήρειστο
 ἱερός, ᾧ ποτε πᾶσαι Ἀμαζόνες εὐχετόωντο.
 οὐδὲ σφιν θέμις ἦεν, ὅτ' ἀντιπέρηθεν ἴκοιντο,
 1175 μῆλων τ' ἠδὲ βοῶν τῇδ' ἐσχάρῃ ἱερὰ καίειν:
 ἀλλ' ἵππους δαίτρευνον, ἐπηετανὸν κομέουσai.
 αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ ῥέξαντες ἐπαρτέα δαῖτ' ἐπάσαντο,
 δὴ τότε ἄρ' Αἰσονίδης μετεφώνεεν, ἥρχε τε μύθων:
 'Ζεὺς ἐτεῇ τὰ ἕκαστ' ἐπιδέρεται· οὐδὲ μιν ἄνδρες
 1180 λήθομεν ἔμπεδον, οἳ τε θεοῦδέες οὐδὲ δίκαιοι.
 ὧς μὲν γὰρ πατέρ' ὑμὸν ὑπεξείρυτο φόνοιο
 μητρυιῆς, καὶ νόσφιν ἀπειρέσιον πόρεν ὄλβον:
 ὧς δὲ καὶ ὑμέας αὐτίς ἀπήμονας ἐξεσάωσεν

χείματος οὐλομένοιο· πάρεστι δὲ τῆσδ' ἐπὶ νηὸς
 1185 ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα νέεσθαι, ὅπῃ φίλον, εἴτε μετ' Αἴαν,
 εἴτε μετ' ἀφνειὴν θείου πόλιν Ὀρχομενοῖο.
 τὴν γὰρ Ἀθηναίη τεχνήσατο, καὶ τάμε χαλκῷ
 δοῦρατα Πηλιάδος κορυφῆς πέρι· σὺν δέ οἱ Ἄργος
 τεῦξεν. ἀτὰρ κείνην γε κακὸν διὰ κῦμ' ἐκέδασσεν,
 1190 πρὶν καὶ πετράων σχεδὸν ἐλθεῖν, αἶ τ' ἐνὶ πόντῳ
 στενωπῷ συνίασι πανήμεροι ἀλλήλησιν.
 ἀλλ' ἄγεθ' ὧδε καὶ αὐτοὶ ἐς Ἑλλάδα μαιομένοισιν
 κῶας ἄγειν χρύσειον ἐπίρροθοι ἄμμι πέλεσθε
 καὶ πλόου ἡγεμονῆες, ἐπεὶ Φρίξοιο θυηλὰς
 1195 στέλλομαι ἀμπλήσων, Ζηνὸς χόλον Αἰολίδησιν.
 ἴσκε παρηγορέων· οἱ δ' ἔστυγον εἰσαΐοντες.
 οὐ γὰρ ἔφαν τεύξεσθαι ἐνῆος Αἰήταο
 κῶας ἄγειν κριοῖο μεμαότας, ὧδε δ' ἔειπεν
 Ἄργος, ἀτεμβόμενος τοῖον στόλον ἀμφιπένεσθαι·
 'ὦ φίλοι, ἡμέτερον μὲν ὅσον σθένος, οὐποτ' ἄρωγῆς
 σχήσεται, οὐδ' ἡβαιόν, ὅτε χρειῶ τις ἴκηται.
 ἀλλ' αἰνῶς ὀλοῇσιν ἀπηνείησιν ἄρηρεν
 Αἰήτης· τῷ καὶ περιδεΐδια ναυτίλλεσθαι.
 στεῦται δ' Ἥελίου γόνος ἔμμεναι· ἀμφὶ δὲ Κόλχων
 1205 ἔθνεα ναιετάουσιν ἀπείρονα· καὶ δέ κεν Ἄρει
 σμερδαλέην ἐνοπὴν μέγα τε σθένος ἰσοφαρίζοι.
 οὐ μὰν οὐδ' ἀπάνευθεν ἐλεῖν δέρος Αἰήταο
 ῥήϊδιον, τοιός μιν ὄφιν περὶ τ' ἀμφὶ τ' ἔρυται
 ἀθάνατος καὶ ἄνπνος, ὃν αὐτὴ Γαῖ' ἀνέφυσεν
 1210 Καυκάσου ἐν κνημοῖσι, Τυφασὶν ὅθι πέτρῃ,
 ἔνθα Τυφάονά φασι Διὸς Κρονίδαο κεραυνῷ
 βλήμενον, ὁππότε οἱ στιβαρὰς ἐπορέξατο χεῖρας,
 θερμὸν ἀπὸ κρατὸς στάξαι φόνον· ἵκετο δ' αὐτῶς
 οὔρεα καὶ πεδῖον Νυσῆιον, ἔνθ' ἔτι νῦν περ
 1215 κεῖται ὑποβρύχιος Σερβωνίδος ὕδασι λίμνης.
 ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη· πολέεσσι δ' ἐπὶ χλόος εἴλε παρειὰς
 ἀντίκα, τοῖον ἄεθλον ὅτ' ἔκλυνον. αἶψα δὲ Πηλεὺς
 θαρσαλέοις ἐπέεσσιν ἀμείψατο, φώνησέν τε·
 'μῆδ' οὕτως, ἡθεῖε, λίην δειδίσσεο θυμῷ.
 1220 οὔτε γὰρ ὧδ' ἀλκὴν ἐπιδευόμεθ', ὥστε χερεῖους
 ἔμμεναι Αἰήταο σὺν ἔντεσι πειρηθῆναι.
 ἀλλὰ καὶ ἡμέας οἷω ἐπισταμένους πολέμοιο
 κεῖσε μολεῖν, μακάρων σχεδὸν αἵματος ἐκγεγαῶτας.
 τῷ εἰ μὴ φιλότῃ δέρος χρύσειον ὀπάσσει,
 1225 οὐ οἱ χραισμήσειν ἐπιέλομαι ἔθνεα Κόλχων.
 ὥς οἱ γ' ἀλλήλοισιν ἀμοιβαδὸν ἡγορόωντο,
 μέσφ' αὖτις δόρποιο κορεσσάμενοι κατέδαρθεν.

ἦρι δ' ἀνεγρομένοισιν ἐγκραῆς ἅεν οὔρος·
 ἰστία δ' ἦειραν, τὰ δ' ὑπαὶ ῥιπῆς ἀνέμοιο
 1230 τείνεται· ῥίμφα δὲ νῆσον ἀποπροέλειπον Ἄρηος.
 νυκτὶ δ' ἐπιπλομένη Φιλυρηίδα νῆσον ἄμειβον·
 ἔνθα μὲν Οὐρανίδης Φιλύρῃ Κρόνος, εὖτ' ἐν Ὀλύμπῳ
 Τιτῆων ἦνασσαν, ὁ δὲ Κρηταῖον ὑπ' ἄντρον
 Ζεὺς ἐτι Κουρήτεσσι μετετρέφετ' Ἰδαίοισιν,
 1235 Ῥεῖην ἐξαπαφὼν παρελέξατο· τοὺς δ' ἐνὶ λέκτροις
 τέτμε θεὰ μεσσηγύς· ὁ δ' ἐξ εὐνῆς ἀνορούσας
 ἔσσυτο χαιτήντι φυὴν ἐναλίγκιος ἵππῳ·
 ἢ δ' αἰδοῖ χῶρόν τε καὶ ἦθεα κεῖνα λιποῦσα
 Ὠκεανὶς Φιλύρῃ εἰς οὖρεα μακρὰ Πελασγῶν
 1240 ἦλθ', ἵνα δὴ Χείρωνα πελώριον, ἄλλα μὲν ἵππῳ,
 ἄλλα θεῷ ἀτάλαντον, ἀμοιβαίῃ τέκεν εὐνῇ.
 κεῖθεν δ' αὖ Μάκρωνα ἀπειρεσίην τε Βεχείρων
 γαῖαν ὑπερφιάλους τε παρεξενέοντο Σάπειρας,
 Βύζηράς τ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν· ἐπιπρὸ γὰρ αἰὲν ἔτεμνον
 1245 ἔσσυμένως, λιαροῖο φορεύμενοι ἐξ ἀνέμοιο.
 καὶ δὴ νισσομένοισι μυχὸς διεφαίνετο Πόντου.
 καὶ δὴ Καυκασίων ὀρέων ἀνέτελλον ἐρίπναι
 ἠλίβατοι, τόθι γυῖα περὶ στυφελοῖσι πάγοισιν
 ἰλλόμενος χαλκήσιν ἀλυκτοπέδῃσι Προμηθεὺς
 1250 αἰετὸν ἦπατι φέρβε παλιμπετὲς αἰσسونτα.
 τὸν μὲν ἐπ' ἀκροτάτης ἴδον ἔσπερον ὀξεῖ ροίζῳ
 νηὸς ὑπερπτάμενον νεφέων σχεδόν· ἀλλὰ καὶ ἔμης
 λαίφεα πάντ' ἐτίναξε, παραιθύζας πτερύγεσσιν.
 οὐ γὰρ ὄγ' αἰθερίοιο φυὴν ἔχεν οἰωνοῖο,
 1255 ἴσα δ' ἐνξέστοις ὠκύπτερα πάλλεν ἐρετμοῖς,
 δηρὸν δ' οὐ μετέπειτα πολύστονον ἄιον αὐδὴν
 ἦπαρ ἀνελκομένοιο Προμηθέος· ἔκτυπε δ' αἰθήρ
 οἰμωγῇ, μέσφ' αὖτις ἀπ' οὔρεος αἰσسونτα
 αἰετὸν ὠμηστήν αὐτὴν ὁδὸν εἰσενόησαν.
 1260 ἐννύχιοι δ' Ἄργοιο δαημοσύνησιν ἵκοντο
 Φᾶσιν τ' εὐρὺ ρέοντα, καὶ ἔσχατα πείρατα πόντοι
 αὐτίκα δ' ἰστία μὲν καὶ ἐπίκριον ἔνδοθι κοίλης
 ἰστοδόκης στείλαντες ἐκόσμεον· ἐν δὲ καὶ αὐτὸν
 ἰστὸν ἄφαρ χαλάσαντο παρακλιδόν· ὧκα δ' ἐρετμοῖς
 1265 εἰσέλασαν ποταμοῖο μέγαν ῥόον· αὐτὰρ ὁ πάντῃ
 καχλάζων ὑπόεικεν· ἔχον δ' ἐπ' ἀριστερὰ χειρῶν
 Καύκασον αἰπήνεντα Κυταιίδα τε πτόλιν Αἴης,
 ἔνθεν δ' αὖ πεδῖον τὸ Ἀρήιον ἱερά τ' ἄλση
 τοῖο θεοῦ, τόθι κῶας ὄφεις εἴρυτο δοκεύων
 1270 πεπτάμενον λασίοισιν ἐπὶ δρυὸς ἀκρεμόνεσσιν.
 αὐτὸς δ' Αἰσονίδης χρυσέῳ ποταμόνδε κυπέλλῳ

οἴνου ἀκηρασίοιο μελισταγέας χέε λοιβάς
γαίη τ' ἐνναέταις τε θεοῖς ψυχαῖς τε καμόντων
ἡρώων· γουνοῦτο δ' ἀπήμονας εἶναι ἄρωγούς
1275 εὐμενέως, καὶ νηὶς ἐναΐσιμα πείσματα δέχθαι.
αὐτίκα δ' Ἀγκαῖος τοῖον μετὰ μῦθον ἔειπεν·
‘Κολχίδα μὲν δὴ γαῖαν ἰκάνομεν ἡδὲ ρέεθρα
Φάσιδος· ὥρη δ' ἡμῖν ἐνὶ σφίσι μητιάασθαι,
εἴτ' οὖν μειλιχίῃ πειρησόμεθ' Αἰήταο,
1280 εἴτε καὶ ἄλλοίη τις ἐπήβολος ἔσσεται ὁρμή.’
ὥς ἔφατ'· Ἄργου δ' αὖτε παρηγορήσιν Ἰήσων
ὕψοθι νῆ· ἐκέλευσεν ἐπ' εὐναίησιν ἐρύσσαι
δάσκιον εἰσελάσαντας ἔλος· τὸ δ' ἐπισχεδὸν ἦεν
νισσομένων, ἔνθ' οἶγε διὰ κνέφας ἠὺλίζοντο.
1285 ἥὼς δ' οὐ μετὰ δηρὸν ἐελδομένοις ἐφάάνθη.

BOOK III.

εἰ δ' ἄγε νῦν, Ἐρατώ, παρά θ' ἴστασο, καί μοι ἔνισπε,
ἔνθεν ὅπως ἐς Ἴωλκὸν ἀνήγαγε κῶας Ἴησων
Μηδείης ὑπ' ἔρωτι. σὺ γὰρ καὶ Κύπριδος αἶσαν
ἔμμορες, ἀδμῆτας δὲ τεοῖς μελεδήμασι θέλγεις
5 παρθενικάς· τῷ καὶ τοι ἐπήρατον οὖνομ' ἀνῆπται.
ὧς οἱ μὲν πυκινοῖσιν ἀνωίστως δονάκεσσιν
μῖμον ἀριστῆες λελοχημένοι· αἱ δ' ἐνόησαν
Ἥρῃ Ἀθηναίῃ τε, Διὸς δ' αὐτοῖο καὶ ἄλλων
ἀθανάτων ἀπονόσφι θεῶν θάλαμόνδε κιοῦσαι
10 βούλευον· πείραζε δ' Ἀθηναίην πάρος Ἥρῃ·
‘αὐτὴ νῦν προτέρη, θύγατερ Διός, ἄρχεο βουλῆς.
τί χρέος; ἡδὲ δόλον τινὰ μήσεται, ᾧ κεν ἐλόντες
χρύσειον Αἰήταο μεθ' Ἑλλάδα κῶας ἄγοιντο,
ἧ καὶ τόνγ' ἐπέεσσι παραιφάμενοι πεπιθοῖεν
15 μελιχίοις; ἧ γὰρ ὄγ' ὑπερφίαλος πέλει αἰνῶς.
ἔμπης δ' οὔτινα πεῖραν ἀποτρῶπᾶσθαι ἔοικεν.’
ὧς φάτο· τὴν δὲ παρᾶσσον Ἀθηναίη προσέειπεν·
‘καὶ δ' αὐτὴν ἐμὲ τοῖα μετὰ φρεσὶν ὀρμαίνουσας,
Ἥρῃ, ἀπηλεγέως ἐξείρεαι. ἀλλὰ τοι οὐπῶ
20 φράσσασθαι νοέω τοῦτον δόλον, ὅστις ὀνήσει
θυμὸν ἀριστήων· πολέας δ' ἐπεδοίασα βουλάς.’
ἧ, καὶ ἐπ' οὐδεὸς αἶγε ποδῶν πάρος ὄμματ' ἔπῃξαν,
ἄνδιχα πορφύρουσαι ἐνὶ σφίσιν· αὐτίκα δ' Ἥρῃ
τοῖον μητιώσα παροιτέρῃ ἔκφατο μῦθον·
25 ‘δεῦρ' ἴομεν μετὰ Κύπριν· ἐπιπλόμεναι δέ μιν ἄμφο
παιδί ἐφ' εἰπεῖν ὀτρύνομεν, αἷ κε πίθεται
κούρην Αἰήτεω πολυφάρμακον οἷσι βέλεσσιν
θέλξαι οἰστεύσας ἐπ' Ἴησωνι. τὸν δ' ἂν οἶω
κείνης ἔννεσίησιν ἐς Ἑλλάδα κῶας ἀνάξειν.’
30 ὧς ἄρ' ἔφη· πυκινὴ δὲ συνεύαδε μῆτις Ἀθήνη,
καὶ μιν ἔπειτ' ἐξαυτίς ἀμείβετο μελιχίοισιν·
‘Ἥρῃ, νήϊδα μὲν με πατὴρ τέκε τοῖο βολᾶων,
οὐδέ τινα χρεῖω θελκτῆριον οἶδα πόθοιο.
εἰ δέ σοι αὐτῇ μῦθος ἐφανεῖται, ἧ τ' ἂν ἔγωγε
35 ἐσποίμην· σὺ δέ κεν φαίης ἔπος ἀντιώσωσα.’
ἧ, καὶ ἀναΐξασαι ἐπὶ μέγα δῶμα νέοντο
Κύπριδος, ὃ ρά τέ οἱ δεῖμεν πόσις ἀμφιγυήεις,
ὅπποτε μιν τὰ πρῶτα παρὰ Διὸς ἦγεν ἄκοιτιν.
ἔρκεα δ' εἰσελθοῦσαι ὑπ' αἰθούσῃ θαλάμοιο
40 ἔσαν, ἴν' ἐντύνεσκε θεὰ λέχος Ἥφαιστοιο.
ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν ἐς χαλκεῶνα καὶ ἄκμονας ἦρι βεβήκει,

νήσοιο πλαγκτῆς εὐρὺν μυχόν, ᾧ ἔνι πάντα
 δαίδαλα χάλκευεν ῥιπῇ πυρόσ' ἢ δ' ἄρα μούνη
 ἦστο δόμῳ δινωτὸν ἀνὰ θρόνον, ἅντα θυράων.
 45 λευκοῖσιν δ' ἐκάτερθε κόμας ἐπιειμένη ὦμοις
 κόσμει χρυσεῖη διὰ κερκίδι, μέλλε δὲ μακροὺς
 πλέξασθαι πλοκάμους· τὰς δὲ προπάροιθεν ἰδοῦσα
 ἔσχεθεν, εἶσω τέ σφ' ἐκάλει, καὶ ἀπὸ θρόνου ὤρτο,
 εἶσέ τ' ἐνὶ κλισμοῖσιν· ἀτὰρ μετέπειτα καὶ αὐτὴ
 50 ἴζανεν, ἀψήκτους δὲ χεροῖν ἀνεδήσατο χαίτας.
 τοῖα δὲ μειδιῶσα προσέννεπεν αἰμυλίοισιν·
 'Ἡθεῖαι, τίς δεῦρο νόος χρεῖω τε κομίζει
 δηνιαῖς αὐτῶς; τί δ' ἰκάνετον, οὔτι πάρος γε
 λῖν φοιτίζουσαι, ἐπεὶ περίεστε θεάων;'
 55 τὴν δ' Ἥρη τοίοισιν ἀμειβομένη προσέειπεν·
 'Κερτομέεις· νῶιν δὲ κέαρ συνορίνεται ἄτη.
 ἦδη γὰρ ποταμῷ ἐνὶ Φάσιδι νῆα κατίσχει
 Αἰσονίδης, ἡδ' ἄλλοι ὅσοι μετὰ κῶας ἔπονται.
 τῶν ἦτοι πάντων μὲν, ἐπεὶ πέλας ἔργον ὄρωρεν,
 60 δείδιμεν ἐκπάγλως, περὶ δ' Αἰσονίδαο μάλιστα.
 τὸν μὲν ἐγών, εἰ καὶ περ ἐς Ἄϊδα ναυτίλληται
 λυσόμενος χαλκέων Ἰξίονα νειόθι δεσμῶν,
 ῥύσομαι, ὅσσον ἐμοῖσιν ἐνὶ σθένος ἔπλετο γυίοις,
 ὄφρα μὴ ἐγγελάσῃ Πελίδης κακὸν οἶτον ἀλύξας,
 65 ὃς μ' ὑπερηνόρη θυέων ἀγέραςτον ἔθηκεν.
 καὶ δ' ἄλλως ἔτι καὶ πρὶν ἐμοὶ μέγα φίλατ' Ἰήσων
 ἐξότ' ἐπὶ προχοῇσιν ἄλῃς πλήθοντος Ἀναύρου
 ἀνδρῶν εὐνομίας πειρωμένη ἀντεβόλησεν
 θήρης ἐξανιών· νιφετῷ δ' ἐπαλύνετο πάντα
 70 οὔρεα καὶ σκοπιαὶ περιμήκεες, οἱ δὲ κατ' αὐτῶν
 χεῖμαρροι καναχηδὰ κυλινδόμενοι φορέοντο.
 γρηὶ δέ μ' εἰσαμένην ὀλοφύρατο, καὶ μ' ἀναείρας
 αὐτὸς ἐοῖς ὥμοισι διέκ προαλὲς φέρεν ὕδωρ.
 τῷ νύ μοι ἄλληκτον περιτίεται· οὐδέ κε λῶβην
 75 τίσειεν Πελίδης, εἰ μὴ σύ γε νόστον ὀπάσσεις.'
 ὧς ἠῦδα· Κύπριν δ' ἐνεοστασίη λάβε μύθων.
 ἄζετο δ' ἀντομένην Ἥρην ἔθεν εἰσορόωσα,
 καὶ μιν ἔπειτ' ἀγανοῖσι προσέννεπεν ἦγ' ἐπέεσσιν·
 'πότνα θεά, μή τοί τι κακώτερον ἄλλο πέλοιτο
 80 Κύπριδος, εἰ δὴ σεῖο λιλαιομένης ἀθερίζω
 ἢ ἔπος ἡέ τι ἔργον, ὃ κεν χέρες αἶγε κάμοιεν
 ἠπεδαναί· καὶ μὴ τις ἀμοιβαίῃ χάρις ἔστω.'
 ὧς ἔφαθ'· Ἥρη δ' αὖτις ἐπιφραδέως ἀγορευσεν·
 'οὔτι βίης χατέουσai ἰκάνομεν, οὐδέ τι χειρῶν.
 85 ἀλλ' αὐτῶς ἀκέουσα τεῶ ἐπικέκλεο παιδί

παρθένον Αἰήτεω θέλξει πόθῳ Αἰσονίδαο.
 εἰ γάρ οἱ κείνη συμφράσσεται εὐμενέουσα,
 ῥηιδίως μιν ἐλόντα δέρος χρύσειον οἶω
 νοστήσειν ἐς Ἰωλκόν, ἐπεὶ δολόεσσα τέτυκται.
 90 ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη: Κύπρις δὲ μετ' ἀμφοτέρησιν ἔειπεν:
 “Ἥρη, Ἀθηναίη τε, πίθοιτό κεν ὕμμι μάλιστα,
 ἢ ἐμοί. ὑμείων γὰρ ἀναιδήτῳ περ ἐόντι
 τυτθὴ γ' αἰδῶς ἔσσειτ' ἐν ὄμμασιν: αὐτὰρ ἐμεῖο
 οὐκ ὄθεται, μάλα δ' αἰὲν ἐριδμαίνων ἀθερίζει.
 95 καὶ δὴ οἱ μενέηνα, περισχομένη κακότητι,
 αὐτοῖσιν τόξοισι δυσηχέας ἄξαι ὀιστοὺς
 ἀμφιδίην. τοῖον γὰρ ἐπηπείλησε χαλεφθεῖς,
 εἰ μὴ τηλόθι χεῖρας, ἕως ἔτι θυμὸν ἐρύκει,
 ἔξω ἐμάς, μετέπειτά γ' ἀτεμβοίμην ἐοῖ αὐτῇ.”
 100 ὥς φάτο: μείδησαν δὲ θεαί, καὶ ἐσέδρακον ἄντην
 ἀλλήλαις. ἢ δ' αὖτις ἀκηχεμένη προσέειπεν:
 ‘ἄλλοις ἄλγεα τὰμὰ γέλως πέλει: οὐδέ τί με χρὴ
 μυθεῖσθαι πάντεσσιν: ἄλις εἰδυῖα καὶ αὐτῇ.
 νῦν δ' ἐπεὶ ὕμμι φίλον τόδε δὴ πέλει ἀμφοτέρησιν,
 105 πειρήσω, καὶ μιν μειλίζομαι, οὐδ' ἀπιθήσει.’
 ὥς φάτο: τὴν δ' Ἥρη ῥαδινῆς ἐπεμάσσατο χειρὸς,
 ἦκα δὲ μειδιόωσα παραβλήδην προσέειπεν:
 ‘οὕτω νῦν, Κυθήρεια, τόδε χρέος, ὥς ἀγορεύεις,
 ἔρξον ἄφαρ: καὶ μὴ τι χालέπτεο, μηδ' ἐρίδαινε
 110 χωομένη σῶ παιδί: μεταλλήξει γὰρ ὀπίσσω.’
 ἦ ῥα, καὶ ἔλλιπε θῶκον: ἐφωμάρτησε δ' Ἀθήνη:
 ἐκ δ' ἴσαν ἄμφω ταίγε παλίσσυτοι. ἢ δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ
 βῆ ῥ' ἵμεν Οὐλύμποιο κατὰ πτύχας, εἴ μιν ἐφεύροι.
 εὖρε δὲ τόνγ' ἀπάνευθε Διὸς θαλερῇ ἐν ἁλώῃ,
 115 οὐκ οἶον, μετὰ καὶ Γανυμήδεα, τὸν ῥά ποτε Ζεὺς
 οὐρανῷ ἐγκατένασσεν ἐφέστιον ἀθανάτοισιν,
 κάλλεος ἱμερθεῖς. ἀμφ' ἀστραγάλοισι δὲ τώγε
 χρυσείοις, ἃ τε κοῦροι ὀμήθεες, ἐπιόνωντο.
 καὶ ῥ' ὁ μὲν ἤδη πάμπαν ἐνίπλεον ᾧ ὑπὸ μαζῶ
 120 μάργος Ἔρως λαιῆς ὑποῖσχανε χειρὸς ἄγοστόν,
 ὀρθὸς ἐφεστηώς: γλυκερὸν δὲ οἱ ἀμφὶ παρειᾶς
 χροῖη θάλλεν ἔρευθος. ὁ δ' ἐγγύθεν ὀκλαδὸν ἦστο
 σῖγα κατηφίων: δοιῶ δ' ἔχεν, ἄλλον ἔτ' αὐτῶς
 ἄλλω ἐπιπροΐεις, κεχόλωτο δὲ καγχαλῶντι.
 125 καὶ μὴν τούσγε παρᾶσσον ἐπὶ προτέροισιν ὀλέσσας
 βῆ κενεαῖς σὺν χερσὶν ἀμήχανος, οὐδ' ἐνόησεν
 Κύπριν ἐπιπλομένην. ἢ δ' ἀντίη ἴστατο παιδός,
 καὶ μιν ἄφαρ γναθμοῖο κατασχομένη προσέειπεν:
 ‘τίπτ' ἐπιμειδιάς, ἄφατον κακόν; ἦέ μιν αὐτῶς

130 ἦπαφες, οὐδὲ δίκη περιέπλεο νῆιν ἔοντα;
 εἰ δ' ἄγε μοι πρόφρων τέλεσον χρέος, ὅττι κεν εἴπω:
 καὶ κέν τοι ὀπάσαιμι Διὸς περικαλλὲς ἄθυρμα
 κεῖνο, τό οἱ ποίησε φίλη τροφὸς Ἀδρήστεια
 ἄντρῳ ἐν Ἰδαίῳ ἔτι νήπια κουρίζοντι,
 135 σφαῖραν ἐντρόχαλον, τῆς οὐ σύγε μείλιον ἄλλο
 χειρῶν Ἡφαίστοιο κατακτεατίσση ἄρειον.
 χρύσεια μὲν οἱ κύκλα τετεύχεται: ἀμφὶ δ' ἐκάστω
 διπλοαὶ ἀψίδες περιηγέες εἰλίσσονται:
 κρυπταὶ δὲ ῥαφαὶ εἰσιν: ἔλιξ δ' ἐπιδέδρομε πάσαις
 140 κυανέῃ. ἀτὰρ εἴ μιν ἑαῖς ἐνὶ χερσὶ βάλοιο,
 ἀστήρ ὣς, φλεγέθοντα δι' ἡέρος ὀλκὸν ἦσιν.
 τήν τοι ἐγὼν ὀπάσω: σὺ δὲ παρθένον Αἰήταο
 θέλξον οἰστεύσας ἐπ' Ἴησони: μηδέ τις ἔστω
 ἀμβολίῃ. δῆ γάρ κεν ἀφαιροτέρῃ χάρις εἴη.
 145 ὣς φάτο: τῷ δ' ἀσπαστὸν ἔπος γένετ' εἰσαΐοντι.
 μείλια δ' ἔκβαλε πάντα, καὶ ἀμφοτέρῃσι χιτῶνος
 νολεμέες ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα θεᾶς ἔχεν ἀμφιμεμαρπώς.
 λίσσετο δ' αἶψα πορεῖν αὐτοσχεδόν: ἡ δ' ἀγανοῖσιν
 ἀντομένη μύθοισιν, ἐπειρύσσασα παρειάς,
 150 κύσσε ποτισχομένη, καὶ ἀμείβετο μειδιώσα:
 'ἴστω νῦν τόδε σεῖο φίλον κάρη ἡδ' ἐμὸν αὐτῆς,
 ἦ μὲν τοι δῶρόν γε παρέξομαι, οὐδ' ἀπατήσω,
 εἴ κεν ἐνισκίμψης κούρη βέλος Αἰήταο.'
 φῆ: ὁ δ' ἄρ' ἀστραγάλους συναμήσατο, καὶ δὲ φαεινῷ
 155 μητρὸς ἐῆς εὖ πάντας ἀριθμήσας βάλε κόλπῳ.
 αὐτίκα δ' ἰοδόκην χρυσήν περικάτθετο μίτρην
 πρέμνῳ κεκλιμένην: ἀνὰ δ' ἀγκύλον εἵλετο τόξον.
 βῆ δὲ διέκ μεγάροιο Διὸς πάγκαρπον ἀλωήν.
 αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα πύλας ἐξήλυθεν Οὐλύμποιο
 160 αἰθερίας: ἔνθεν δὲ καταιβάτις ἐστὶ κέλευθος
 οὐρανίη: δοιῶ δὲ πόλοι ἀνέχουσι κάρηνα
 οὐρέων ἡλιβάτων, κορυφαὶ χθονός, ἥχι τ' ἀερθεῖς
 ἡέλιος πρώτησιν ἐρέυθεται ἀκτίνεσσιν.
 νειόθι δ' ἄλλοτε γαῖα φερέσβιος ἄστεά τ' ἀνδρῶν
 165 φαίνεται καὶ ποταμῶν ἱεροὶ ῥόοι, ἄλλοτε δ' αὖτε
 ἄκριες, ἀμφὶ δὲ πόντος ἀν' αἰθέρα πολλὸν ἰόντι.
 ἦρωες δ' ἀπάνευθεν ἐῆς ἐπὶ σέλμασι νηὸς
 ἐν ποταμῷ καθ' ἔλος λελοχημένοι ἡγορόωντο.
 αὐτὸς δ' Αἰσονίδης μετεφώνεεν: οἱ δ' ὑπάκουον
 170 ἡρέμας ἦ ἐνὶ χώρῃ ἐπισχερῶ ἐδριόωντες:
 'ὦ φίλοι, ἦτοι ἐγὼ μὲν ὅ μοι ἐπιανδάνει αὐτῷ
 ἐξερῶ: τοῦ δ' ὕμμι τέλος κρηῆναι ἔοικεν.
 ξυνη γὰρ χρειῶ, ξυνοὶ δὲ τε μῦθοι ἔασιν

πᾶσιν ὁμῶς· ὁ δὲ σῖγα νόον βουλὴν τ' ἀπερύκων
 175 ἴστω καὶ νόστου τόνδε στόλον οἶος ἀπούρας.
 ὧλλοι μὲν κατὰ νῆα σὺν ἔντεσι μίμνεθ' ἔκκηλοι·
 αὐτὰρ ἐγὼν ἐς δώματ' ἐλεύσομαι Αἰήταο,
 υἱᾶς ἐλὼν Φρίξοιο δῦω δ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ἐταίρους.
 πειρήσω δ' ἐπέεσσι παροίτερον ἀντιβολήσας,
 180 εἴ κ' ἐθέλοι φιλότῃτι δέρος χρύσειον ὀπάσσαι,
 ἦε καὶ οὐ, πίσυνος δὲ βίῃ μετιόντας ἀτίσσει.
 ὦδε γὰρ ἐξ αὐτοῖο πάρος κακότητα δαέντες
 φρασσόμεθ', εἴτ' ἄρῃ συννοισόμεθ' εἴτε τις ἄλλη
 μῆτις ἐπίρροθος ἔσται ἐεργομένοισιν αὐτῆς.
 185 μῆδ' αὐτῶς ἀλκῇ, πρὶν ἔπεσσί γε πειρηθῆναι,
 τόνδ' ἀπαμείρωμεν σφέτερον κτέρας. ἀλλὰ πάροιθεν
 λωίτερον μύθῳ μιν ἀρέσσασθαι μετιόντας.
 πολλὰκι τοι ρέα μῦθος, ὃ κεν μόλις ἐξανύσειεν
 ἡγορέῃ, τόδ' ἔρεξε κατὰ χρέος, ἥπερ ἐφείκει
 190 πρηϋνας. ὁ δὲ καὶ ποτ' ἀμύμονα Φρίξον ἔδεκτο
 μητρυιῆς φεύγοντα δόλον πατρός τε θυηλάς.
 πάντες ἐπεὶ πάντῃ καὶ ὅτις μάλα κύντατος ἀνδρῶν,
 ξεινίου αἰδεῖται Ζηνὸς θέμιν ἡδ' ἀλεγίζει.
 ὥς φάτ'· ἐπήνησαν δὲ νέοι ἔπος Αἰσονίδαο
 195 πασσυδίῃ, οὐδ' ἔσκε παρὲς ὅτις ἄλλο κελεύοι.
 καὶ τότε ἄρ' υἱᾶς Φρίξου Τελαμῶνά θ' ἔπεσθαι
 ὤρσε καὶ Αὐγείην· αὐτὸς δ' ἔλεν Ἑρμείαο
 σκῆπτρον· ἄφαρ δ' ἄρα νηὸς ὑπὲρ δόνακάς τε καὶ ὕδωρ
 χέρσονδ' ἐξαπέβησαν ἐπὶ θρωσμοῦ πεδίοιο.
 200 Κίρκαιον τόδε που κικλήσκεται· ἔνθα δὲ πολλὰι
 ἐξείης πρόμαλοί τε καὶ ἰτέαι ἐκπεφύασιν,
 τῶν καὶ ἐπ' ἀκροτάτων νέκυες σειρήσι κρέμανται
 δέσμιοι. εἰσέτι νῦν γὰρ ἄγος Κόλχοισιν ὄρωρεν
 ἀνέρας οἰχομένους πυρὶ καίμεν· οὐδ' ἐνὶ γαίῃ
 205 ἔστι θέμις στείλαντας ὕπερθ' ἐπὶ σῆμα χέεσθαι,
 ἀλλ' ἐν ἀδεψήτοισι κατειλύσαντε βοεῖαις
 δενδρέων ἐξάπτειν ἐκάς ἄστεος. ἥρι δ' ἴσῃν
 καὶ χθὼν ἔμμορεν αἶσαν, ἐπεὶ χθονὶ ταρχούουσιν
 θηλυτέρας· ἡ γάρ τε δίκη θεσμοῖο τέτυκται.
 210 τοῖσι δὲ νισσομένοις Ἥρῃ φίλα μητιόωσα
 ἡέρα πουλὺν ἐφῆκε δι' ἄστεος, ὄφρα λάθοιεν
 Κόλχων μυρίον ἔθνος ἐς Αἰήταο κiónτες.
 ὦκα δ' ὅτ' ἐκ πεδίοιο πόλιν καὶ δώμαθ' ἵκοντο
 Αἰήτεω, τότε δ' αὖτις ἀπεσκέδασεν νέφος Ἥρῃ.
 215 ἔσταν δ' ἐν προμολῇσι τεθηπότες ἔρκε' ἄνακτος
 εὐρείας τε πύλας καὶ κίονας, οἱ περὶ τοίχους
 ἐξείης ἄνεχον· θριγκὸς δ' ἐφύπερθε δόμοιο

λαῖνεος χαλκήσιν ἐπὶ γλυφίδεσσιν ἀρήρει.
 εὐκηλοὶ δ' ὑπὲρ οὐδὸν ἔπειτ' ἔβαν. ἄγχι δὲ τοῖο
 220 ἡμερίδες χλοεροῖσι καταστεφές πετάλοισιν
 ὑποῦ ἀειρόμεναι μέγ' ἐθήλεον. αἱ δ' ὑπὸ τῆσιν
 ἀέναοι κρῆναι πίσυρες ῥέον, ἃς ἐλάχνηεν
 Ἕφαιστος. καὶ ῥ' ἡ μὲν ἀναβλύσκε γάλακτι,
 ἡ δ' οἶνω, τριτάτη δὲ θυώδει νῆεν ἀλοιφῇ·
 225 ἡ δ' ἄρ' ὕδωρ προρέεσκε, τὸ μὲν ποθὶ δυομένησιν
 θέρμετο Πληιάδεσσιν, ἀμοιβηδὶς δ' ἀνιούσαις
 κρυστάλλῳ ἵκελον κοίλης ἀνεκῆκιε πέτρης.
 τοῖ' ἄρ' ἐνὶ μεγάροισι Κυτῑαῖος Αἰήταο
 τεχνήεις Ἕφαιστος ἐμήσατο θέσκελα ἔργα.
 230 καὶ οἱ χαλκόποδας ταύρους κάμε, χάλκεα δὲ σφεων
 ἦν στόματ', ἐκ δὲ πυρὸς δεινὸν σέλας ἀμπνεῖσκον·
 πρὸς δὲ καὶ αὐτόγυον στιβαροῦ ἀδάμαντος ἄροτρον
 ἤλασεν, Ἡελίῳ τίνων χάριν, ὅς ῥά μιν ἵπποις
 δέξατο, Φλεγραΐη κεκμηότα δηιοτῆτι.
 235 ἔνθα δὲ καὶ μέσσαυλος ἐλήλατο· τῇ δ' ἐπὶ πολλὰι
 δικλίδες εὐπηγεῖς θάλαμοί τ' ἔσαν ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα·
 δαιδαλέη δ' αἴθουσα παρέξ ἐκάτερθε τέτυκτο.
 λέχρις δ' αἰπύτεροι δόμοι ἔστασαν ἀμφοτέρωθεν.
 τῶν ἥτοι ἄλλῳ μὲν, ὅτις καὶ ὑπείροχος ἦεν,
 240 κρείων Αἰήτης σὺν ἐῇ ναῖεσκε δάμαρτι·
 ἄλλῳ δ' Ἀψυρτος ναῖεν πάις Αἰήταο.
 τὸν μὲν Καυκασίῃ νύμφη τέκεν Ἀστερόδεια
 πρὶν περ κουριδίῃν θέσθαι Εἰδυῖαν ἄκοιτιν,
 Τηθύος Ὠκεανοῦ τε πανοπλοτάτην γεγαυῖαν.
 245 καὶ μιν Κόλχων υἱὲς ἐπωνυμίην Φαέθοντα
 ἔκλεον, οὐνεκα πᾶσι μετέπρεπεν ἡιθέοισιν.
 τοὺς δ' ἔχον ἀμφίπολοί τε καὶ Αἰήταο θυγάτρες
 ἄμφω, Χαλκιοπὴ Μήδειά τε. τὴν μὲν ἄρ' οἶγε
 ἐκ θαλάμου θάλαμόνδε κασιγνήτην μετιοῦσαν —
 250 Ἦρην γάρ μιν ἔρυκε δόμῳ· πρὶν δ' οὐτὶ θάμιζεν
 ἐν μεγάροις, Ἐκάτης δὲ πανήμερος ἀμφεπονεῖτο
 νηόν, ἐπεὶ ῥα θεᾶς αὐτὴ πέλεν ἀρήτειρα —
 καὶ σφεας ὥς ἶδεν ἄσσον, ἀνίαχεν· ὁξὺ δ' ἄκουσεν
 Χαλκιοπῇ· δμῳαὶ δὲ ποδῶν προπάροιθε βαλοῦσαι
 255 νήματα καὶ κλωστήρας ἀολλέες ἔκτοθι πᾶσαι
 ἔδραμον. ἡ δ' ἅμα τοῖσιν ἐοὺς υἱῆας ἰδοῦσα
 ὑποῦ χάρματι χεῖρας ἀνέσχεθεν· ὥς δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ
 μητέρα δεξιόωντο, καὶ ἀμφαγάπαζον ἰδόντες
 γηθόσυνοι· τοῖον δὲ κινυρομένη φάτο μῦθον·
 260 ἔμπηξ οὐκ ἄρ' ἐμέλλετ' ἀκηδεῖν με λιπόντες
 τηλόθι πλάγζασθαι· μετὰ δ' ὑμέας ἔτραπεν αἶσα.

δειλὴ ἐγώ, οἷον πόθον Ἑλλάδος ἔκποθεν ἄτης
 λευγαλέης Φρίξιοιο ἐφημοσύνησιν ἔλεσθε
 πατρός, ὁ μὲν θνήσκων στυγεράς ἐπετείλατ' ἀνίας
 265 ἡμετέρῃ κραδίῃ. τί δέ κεν πόλιν Ὀρχομενοῖο,
 ὅστις ὄδ' Ὀρχομενός, κτεάνων Ἀθάμαντος ἔκῃτι
 μητέρ' ἐὴν ἀχέουσαν ἀποπρολιπόντες, ἴκοισθε;'
 ὥς ἔφατ'· Αἰήτης δὲ πανύστατος ὦρτο θύραζε,
 ἐκ δ' αὐτὴ Εἰδυῖα δάμαρ κίεν Αἰήταο,
 270 Χαλκιόπης αἰούσα· τὸ δ' αὐτίκα πᾶν ὁμάδοιο
 ἔρκος ἐπεπλήθει. τοῖ μὲν μέγαν ἀμφιπένοντο
 ταῦρον ἄλῃς δμῶες· τοὶ δὲ ξύλα κάγκανα χαλκῷ
 κόπτον· τοὶ δὲ λοετρά πυρὶ ζέον· οὐδέ τις ἦεν,
 ὃς καμάτου μεθίσκεν, ὑποδρήσσω βασιλῆι.
 275 τόφρα δ' Ἔρωσ πολιοῖο δι' ἥερος ἵξεν ἄφαντος,
 τετρηχῶς, οἷόν τε νέαις ἐπὶ φορβάσιν οἴστρος
 τέλλεται, ὃν τε μύωπα βοῶν κλείουσι νομῆες.
 ὦκα δ' ὑπὸ φλιὴν προδόμῳ ἔνι τόξῳ τανύσσας
 ἰοδόκης ἀβλήτα πολύστονον ἐξέλετ' ἰόν.
 280 ἐκ δ' ὅγε καρπαλίμοισι λαθὼν ποσὶν οὐδὸν ἄμειψεν
 ὀξέα δενδύλλον· αὐτῷ ὑπὸ βαιὸς ἐλυσθεῖς
 Αἰσονίδῃ γλυφίδας μέσση ἐνικάτθετο νευρῇ,
 ἰθὺς δ' ἀμφοτέρῃσι διασχόμενος παλάμησιν
 ἦκ' ἐπὶ Μηδείῃ· τὴν δ' ἀμφασίῃ λάβε θυμόν.
 285 αὐτὸς δ' ὑπορόφοιο παλμπετὲς ἐκ μεγάροιο
 καγχαλῶν ἦξε· βέλος δ' ἐνεδαίετο κούρη
 νέρθεν ὑπὸ κραδίῃ, φλογὶ εἵκελον· ἀντία δ' αἰεὶ
 βάλλεν ὑπ' Αἰσονίδην ἀμαρύγματα, καὶ οἱ ἄηντο
 στηθέων ἐκ πυκιναὶ καμάτῳ φρένες, οὐδέ τιν' ἄλλην
 290 μνῆστιν ἔχεν, γλυκερῇ δὲ κατεΐβετο θυμόν ἀνίη.
 ὥς δὲ γυνὴ μαλερῷ περὶ κάρφεα χεύατο δαλῶ
 χερνῆτις, τῇ περ ταλασῆα ἔργα μέμηλεν,
 ὥς κεν ὑπωρόφιον νύκτωρ σέλας ἐντύναιτο,
 ἄγχι μάλ' ἐγρομένη· τὸ δ' ἀθέσφατον ἐξ ὀλίγοιο
 295 δαλοῦ ἀνεγρόμενον σὺν κάρφεα πάντ' ἀμαθύνει·
 τοῖος ὑπὸ κραδίῃ εἰλυμένος αἶθετο λάθρη
 οὐλὸς Ἔρωσ· ἀπαλὰς δὲ μετετρωπᾶτο παρειὰς
 ἐς χλόον, ἄλλοτ' ἔρευθος, ἀκηδείῃσι νόοιο.
 δμῶες δ' ὁππότε δὴ σφιν ἐπαρτέα θῆκαν ἐδωδὴν,
 300 αὐτοὶ τε λιανοῖσιν ἐφαιδρύναντο λοετροῖς,
 ἀσπασίως δόρπῳ τε ποτῇτι τε θυμόν ἄρεσσαν.
 ἐκ δὲ τοῦ Αἰήτης σφετέρης ἐρέεινε θυγατρός
 υἱῆς τοίοισι παρηγορέων ἐπέεσσιν·
 'παιδὸς ἐμῆς κοῦροι Φρίξιοί τε, τὸν περὶ πάντων
 305 ξείνων ἡμετέροισιν ἐνὶ μεγάροισιν ἔτισα,

πῶς Αἴϊανδε νέεσθε παλίσσυτοι· ἦέ τις ἄτη
 σωομένοις μεσσηγὺς ἐνέκλασεν; οὐ μὲν ἐμεῖο
 πείθεσθε προφέροντος ἀπείρονα μέτρα κελεύθου.
 ἦδ' οἶν γάρ ποτε πατὴρ ἐν ἄρμασιν Ἑλίοιο
 310 δινεύσας, ὅτ' ἐμεῖο κασιγνήτην ἐκόμιζεν
 Κίρκην ἐσπερίης εἴσω χθονός, ἐκ δ' ἰκόμεσθα
 ἄκτῃν ἠπείρου Τυρσηνίδος, ἔνθ' ἔτι νῦν περ
 ναιετάει, μάλα πολλὸν ἀπόπροθι Κολχίδος αἴης.
 ἀλλὰ τί μύθων ἦδος; ἃ δ' ἐν ποσὶν ὕμιν ὄρωρεν,
 315 εἶπατ' ἀριφραδέως, ἦδ' οἵτινες οἶδ' ἐφέπονται
 ἄνδρες, ὅππῃ τε γλαφυρῆς ἐκ νηὸς ἔβητε.
 τοῖά μιν ἐξερέοντα κασιγνήτων προπάροιθεν
 Ἄργος ὑποδδείσας ἀμφὶ στόλῳ Αἰσονίδαο
 μειλίχως προσέειπεν, ἐπεὶ προγενέστερος ἦεν:
 320 'Αἰήτη, κείνην μὲν ἄφαρ διέχευαν ἄελλαι
 ζαχρηεῖς· αὐτοὺς δ' ἐπὶ δούρασι πεπτηῶτας
 νήσου Ἐνυαλίοιο ποτὶ ξερὸν ἔκβαλε κῦμα
 λυγαίῃ ὑπὸ νυκτί· θεὸς δέ τις ἄμμι' ἐσάωσεν.
 οὐδὲ γὰρ αἶ τὸ πάροιθεν ἐρημαίην κατὰ νῆσον
 325 ἠυλίζοντ' ὄρνιθες Ἀρήϊαι, οὐδ' ἔτι κείνας
 εὖρομεν. ἀλλ' οἷγ' ἄνδρες ἀπήλασαν, ἐξαποβάντες
 νηὸς ἐῆς προτέρῳ ἐνὶ ἡματι· καὶ σφ' ἀπέρυκεν
 ἡμέας οἰκτείρων Ζηνὸς νόος, ἠέ τις αἶσα,
 αὐτίκ' ἐπεὶ καὶ βρῶσιν ἄλις καὶ εἶματ' ἔδωκαν,
 330 οὐνομά τε Φρίξιοι περικλεῆς εἰσαΐοντες
 ἦδ' αὐτοῖο σέθεν· μετὰ γὰρ τεδὸν ἄστρῳ νέονται.
 χρειὸν δ' ἦν ἐθέλης ἐξίδμεναι, οὐ σ' ἐπικεύσω.
 τόνδε τις ἰέμενος πάτρης ἀπάνευθεν ἐλάσσαι
 καὶ κτεάνων βασιλεὺς περιώσιον, οὐνεκεν ἀλκῇ
 335 σφωιτέρῃ τάντεσσι μετέπρεπεν Αἰολίδῃσιν,
 πέμπει δεῦρο νέεσθαι ἀμήχανον· οὐδ' ὑπαλύξειν
 στεῦται ἀμειλίκτοιο Διὸς θυμαλγέα μῆνιν
 καὶ χόλον, οὐδ' ἄτλητον ἄγος Φρίξιοί τε ποινὰς
 Αἰολιδέων γενεήν, πρὶν ἐς Ἑλλάδα κῶας ἰκέσθαι.
 340 νῆα δ' Ἀθηναίῃ Παλλὰς κάμεν, οὐ μάλα τοίην,
 οἶαί περ Κόλχοισι μετ' ἀνδράσι νῆες ἕασιν,
 τῶν αἰνοτάτης ἐπεκύρσαμεν. ἥλιθα γὰρ μιν
 λάβρον ὕδωρ πνοιή τε διέτμαγεν· ἡ δ' ἐνὶ γόμοις
 ἴσχεται, ἦν καὶ πᾶσαι ἐπιβρίσωσιν ἄελλαι.
 345 ἴσον δ' ἐξ ἀνέμοιο θέει καὶ ὅτ' ἄνδρες αὐτοῖ
 νωλεμέως χεῖρεσσιν ἐπισπέρχωσιν ἐρετμοῖς.
 τῇ δ' ἐναγειράμενος Παναχαΐδος εἴ τι φέριστον
 ἠρώων, τεδὸν ἄστρῳ μετήλυθε, πόλλ' ἐπαληθεῖς
 ἄστεα καὶ πελάγη στυγερῆς ἁλός, εἴ οἱ ὀπάσσαις.

350 αὐτῷ δ' ὥς κεν ἄδη, τῷς ἔσσεται· οὐ γὰρ ἰκάνει
 χερσὶ βησόμενος· μέμονεν δέ τοι ἄξια τίσειν
 δωτίνης, αἰὼν ἐμέθεν μέγα δυσμενέοντας
 Σαυρομάτας, τοὺς σοῖσιν ὑπὸ σκῆπτροισι δαμάσσει.
 εἰ δέ καὶ οὔνομα δῆθεν ἐπιθύεις γενεὴν τε
 355 ἴδμεναι, οἵτινές εἰσιν, ἕκαστά γε μυθησαίμην.
 τόνδε μὲν, οἷό περ οὔνεκ' ἀφ' Ἑλλάδος ὦλλοι ἄγερθεν,
 κλείουσ' Αἴσονος υἱὸν Ἰήσονα Κρηθεῖδαο.
 εἰ δ' αὐτοῦ Κρηθῆος ἐτήτυμόν ἐστι γενέθλης,
 οὕτω κεν γνωτὸς πατρώιος ἄμμι πέλοιτο.
 360 ἄμφω γὰρ Κρηθεὺς Ἀθάμας τ' ἔσαν Αἰόλου υἱές·
 Φρίξος δ' αὐτ' Ἀθάμαντος ἦν πάις Αἰολίδαο.
 τόνδε δ' ἄρ', Ἡελίου γόνον ἔμμεναι εἴ τιν' ἀκούεις,
 δέρκεαι Αὐγείην· Τελαμῶν δ' ὄγε, κυδίστοιο
 Αἰακοῦ ἐκγεγῶς· Ζεὺς δ' Αἰακὸν αὐτὸς ἔτικτεν.
 365 ὥς δέ καὶ ὦλλοι πάντες, ὅσοι συνέπονται ἐταῖροι,
 ἀθανάτων υἱές τε καὶ υἰῶνοι γεγάασιν·
 τοῖα παρέννεπεν Ἄργος· ἄναξ δ' ἐπεχώσατο μύθοις
 εἰσαΐων· ὕψοῦ δὲ χόλῳ φρένες ἠερέθοντο.
 φῆ δ' ἐπαλαστήσας· μενέαινε δὲ παισὶ μάλιστα
 370 Χαλκιοπῆς· τῶν γὰρ σφε μετελθέμεν οὔνεκ' ἐώλπει·
 ἐκ δέ οἱ ὄμματ' ἔλαμψεν ὑπ' ὀφρύσιν ἰεμένοιο·
 'οὐκ ἄφαρ ὀφθαλμῶν μοι ἀπόπροθι, λωβητῆρες,
 νεῖσθ' αὐτοῖσι δόλοισι παλίσσυντο ἔκτοθι γαίης,
 πρίν τινα λευγαλέον τε δέρος καὶ Φρίξον ἰδέσθαι·
 375 αὐτίχ' ὁμαρτήσαντες ἀφ' Ἑλλάδος, οὐκ ἐπὶ κῶας,
 σκῆπτρα δὲ καὶ τιμὴν βασιληίδα δεῦρο νέεσθε.
 εἰ δέ κε μὴ προπάροιθεν ἐμῆς ἥψασθε τραπέζης,
 ἧ τ' ἂν ἀπὸ γλώσσας τε ταμῶν καὶ χεῖρε κεάσσας
 ἀμφοτέρας, οἵοισιν ἐπιπροέηκα πόδεςσιν,
 380 ὥς κεν ἐρητύοισθε καὶ ὕστερον ὀρμηθῆναι,
 οἷα δὲ καὶ μακάρεσσιν ἐπεψεύσασθε θεοῖσιν·'
 φῆ ῥα χαλεψάμενος· μέγα δὲ φρένες Αἰακίδαο
 νειόθεν οἰδαίνεσκον· ἐέλδετο δ' ἔνδοθι θυμὸς
 ἀντιβῆναι ὅλοδον φάσθαι ἔπος· ἀλλ' ἀπέρυκεν
 385 Αἰσονίδης· πρὸ γὰρ αὐτὸς ἀμείψατο μειλιχίοισιν·
 'Αἰήτη, σχέο μοι τῷδε στόλῳ. οὔτι γὰρ αὐτως
 ἄστνυ τεδὸν καὶ δώμαθ' ἰκάνομεν, ὥς που ἔολπας,
 οὐδὲ μὲν ἰέμενοι. τίς δ' ἂν τόσον οἶδμα περῆσαι
 τλαίῃ ἐκὼν ὀθνεῖον ἐπὶ κτέρας; ἀλλὰ με δαίμων
 390 καὶ κρυερὴ βασιλῆος ἀτασθάλου ὥρσεν ἐφετμή.
 δὸς χάριν ἀντομένοισι· σέθεν δ' ἐγὼ Ἑλλάδι πάση
 θεσπεσίην οἶσω κληηδόνα· καὶ δέ τοι ἦδη
 πρόφρονές εἰμεν ἄρηι θοὴν ἀποτίσαι ἀμοιβήν,

εἴτ' οὖν Σαυρομάτας γε λιλαιέαι, εἴτε τιν' ἄλλον
395 δῆμον σφωιτέροισιν ὑπὸ σκῆπτροισι δαμάσσαι.
Ἴσκεν ὑποσσαίνων ἀγανῇ ὅπι· τοῖο δὲ θυμὸς
διχθαδίην πόρφυρεν ἐνὶ στήθεσσι μενοινήν,
ἧ σφεας ὀρμηθεὶς αὐτοσχεδὸν ἐξεναρίζοι,
ἧ ὅγε πειρήσαιτο βίης. τό οἱ εἴσατ' ἄρειον
400 φραζομένῳ· καὶ δὴ μιν ὑποβλήδην προσέειπεν·
'ξεῖνε, τί κεν τὰ ἕκαστα διηνεκέως ἀγορεύεις;
εἰ γὰρ ἐτήτυμόν ἐστε θεῶν γένος, ἡὲ καὶ ἄλλως
οὐδὲν ἔμεῖο χέρηρες ἐπ' ὀθνείοισιν ἔβητε,
δώσω τοι χρύσειον ἄγειν δέρος, αἶ κ' ἐθέλῃσθα,
405 πειρηθεὶς. ἐσθλοῖς γὰρ ἐπ' ἀνδράσιν οὐτι μεγαίρω,
ὥς αὐτοὶ μυθεῖσθε τὸν Ἑλλάδι κοιρανέοντα.
πεῖρα δέ τοι μένός τε καὶ ἀλκῆς ἔσσειτ' ἄεθλος,
τόν ῥ' αὐτὸς περίειμι χεροῖν ὀλοόν περ ὄντα.
δοῖά μοι πεδίον τὸ Ἀρήιον ἀμφινέμονται
410 ταύρω χαλκόποδε, στόματι φλόγα φυσιώνοντες·
τοὺς ἐλάω ζεύξας στυφελὴν κατὰ νειὸν Ἄρηος
τετράγνον, τὴν αἶψα ταμὼν ἐπὶ τέλσον ἀρότρῳ
οὐ σπόρον ὀλκοῖσιν Διοῦς ἐνιβάλλομαι ἀκτὴν,
ἀλλ' ὄφιος δεινοῖο μεταδῆσκοντας ὀδόντας
415 ἀνδράσι τευχηστῇσι δέμας. τοὺς δ' αὖθι δαΐζων
κείρω ἐμῷ ὑπὸ δουρὶ περισταδὸν ἀντιώνοντας.
ἡέριος ζεύγνυμι βόας, καὶ δείελον ὥρην
παύομαι ἀμήτιο. σύ δ', εἰ τάδε τοῖα τελέσσεις,
αὐτῆμαρ τόδε κῶας ἀποίσειαι εἰς βασιλῆος·
420 πρὶν δέ κεν οὐ δοίην, μηδ' ἔλπεο. δὴ γὰρ ἀεικέες
ἄνδρ' ἀγαθὸν γεγαῶτα κακωτέρῳ ἀνέρι εἴξαι.
ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη· ὁ δὲ σῖγα ποδῶν πάρος ὄμματα πῆξας
ἦστ' αὐτως ἄφθογγος, ἀμηχανέων κακότητι.
βουλὴν δ' ἀμφὶ πολὺν στρώφα χρόνον, οὐδὲ πη εἶχεν
425 θαρσαλέως ὑποδέχθαι, ἐπεὶ μέγα φαίνετο ἔργον·
ὄψε δ' ἀμειβόμενος προσελέξατο κερδαλέοισιν·
'Αἰήτη, μάλα τοί με δίκη περιπολλὸν ἐέργεις.
τῷ καὶ ἐγὼ τὸν ἄεθλον ὑπερφιάλόν περ ὄντα
τλήσομαι, εἰ καὶ μοι θανέειν μόρος. οὐ γὰρ ἔτ' ἄλλο
430 ῥίγιον ἀνθρώποισι κακῆς ἐπικεῖσεται ἀνάγκης,
ἧ με καὶ ἐνθάδε νεῖσθαι ἐπέχραεν ἐκ βασιλῆος.
ὥς φάτ' ἀμηχανίη βεβολημένος· αὐτὰρ ὁ τόνγε
σμερδαλέοις ἐπέεσσι προσέννεπεν ἀσχαλῶντα·
'ἔρχεο νῦν μεθ' ὄμιλον, ἐπεὶ μέμονάς γε πόνοιο·
435 εἰ δὲ σύγε ζυγὰ βουσὶν ὑποδδείσαις ἐπαεῖραι,
ἡὲ καὶ οὐλομένου μεταχάσσεαι ἀμήτιο,
αὐτῷ κεν τὰ ἕκαστα μέλοιτό μοι, ὄφρα καὶ ἄλλος

ἀνὴρ ἐρρίγησιν ἀρείονα φῶτα μετελθεῖν·

Ἴσκεν ἀπηλεγέως· ὁ δ' ἀπὸ θρόνου ὤρνυτ' Ἴησων,

440 Αὐγείης Τελαμών τε παρασχεδόν· εἶπετο δ' Ἄργος
οἶος, ἐπεὶ μεσσηγὺς ἔτ' αὐτόθι νεῦσε λιπέσθαι
αὐτοκασιγνήτοις· οἱ δ' ἦσαν ἐκ μεγάροιο.

θεσπέσιον δ' ἐν πᾶσι μετέπρεπεν Αἴσονος υἱὸς
κάλλει καὶ χαρίτεσσιν· ἐπ' αὐτῷ δ' ὄμματα κούρη

445 λοξὰ παρὰ λιπαρὴν σχομένη θηεῖτο καλύπτρην,
κῆρ ἄχεϊ σμύχουσα· νόος δέ οἱ ἤύτ' ὄνειρος
ἐρπύζων πεπότητο μετ' ἵχνια νισσομένοιο.

καί ῥ' οἱ μὲν ῥα δόμων ἐξήλυθον ἀσχαλόωντες.

Χαλκίόπη δὲ χόλον πεφυλαγμένη Αἰήταο

450 καρπαλίμως θάλαμόνδε σὺν υἷασιν οἷσι βεβήκει.

αὐτὼς δ' αὖ Μήδεια μετέστιχε· πολλὰ δὲ θυμῷ
ῥωμαιν', ὅσσα τ' Ἔρωτες ἐποτρύνουσι μέλεσθαι.

προπρὸ δ' ἄρ' ὀφθαλμῶν ἔτι οἱ ἰνδάλλετο πάντα,

αὐτὸς θ' οἶος ἔην, οἷοισί τε φάρεσιν ἔστο,

455 οἷά τ' ἔειφ', ὥς θ' ἔζेत' ἐπὶ θρόνου, ὥς τε θύραζε
ἦεν· οὐδέ τιν' ἄλλον οἴσσατο πορφύρουσα

ἔμμεναι ἀνέρα τοῖον· ἐν οὔασι δ' αἰὲν ὀρώρει

αὐδὴ τε μῦθοι τε μελίφρονες, οὓς ἀγόρευσεν.

τάρβει δ' ἄμφ' αὐτῷ, μὴ μιν βόες ἦε καὶ αὐτὸς

460 Αἰήτης φθίσσειεν· ὀδύρετο δ' ἠύτε πάμπαν

ἦδη τεθνεῖῶτα, τέρεν δέ οἱ ἀμφὶ παρειᾶς

δάκρυον αἰνοτάτῳ ἐλέῳ ῥέε κηδοσύνησιν·

ἦκα δὲ μυρομένη λιγέως ἀνενεῖκατο μῦθον·

‘τίπτε με δειλαῖήν τόδ' ἔχει ἄχος· εἴθ' ὅγε πάντων

465 φθίσεται ἡρώων προφερέστατος, εἵτε χερείων,
ἐρρέτω. ἦ μὲν ὄφελλεν ἀκήριος ἐξαλέασθαι.

ναὶ δὴ τοῦτό γε, πότνα θεᾷ Περσῇ, πέλοιτο,

οἴκαδε νοστήσειε φυγῶν μόρον· εἰ δέ μιν αἶσα

δημηῆναι ὑπὸ βουσί, τόδε προπάροιθε δαεῖη,

470 οὐνεκεν οὗ οἱ ἔγωγε κακῇ ἐπαγαίομαι ἄτῃ·

ἦ μὲν ἄρ' ὧς ἐόλητο νόον μελεδήμασι κούρη.

οἱ δ' ἐπεὶ οὖν δήμου τε καὶ ἄστεος ἐκτὸς ἔβησαν

τὴν ὁδόν, ἦν τὸ πάροιθεν ἀνήλυθον ἐκ πεδίοιο,

δὴ τότε Ἴησωνα τοῖσδε προσέννεπεν Ἄργος ἔπεσσιν·

475 ‘Αἰσονίδη, μῆτιν μὲν ὀνόσσειαι, ἦντιν' ἐνίσγω·

πείρης δ' οὐ μάλ' ἔοικε μεθιέμεν ἐν κακότητι.

κούρην δὴ τινα πρόσθεν ὑπέκλυες αὐτὸς ἐμείο

φαρμάσσειν Ἐκάτης Περσηίδος ἐννεσίησιν.

τὴν εἴ κεν πεπίθοιμεν, ὀίομαι, οὐκέτι τάρβος

480 ἔσσειτ' ἀεθλεύοντι δαμήμεναι· ἀλλὰ μάλ' αἰνῶς

δεῖδω, μὴ πως οὗ μοι ὑποσταίῃ τόγε μήτηρ.

ἔμπης δ' ἐξαυτίς μετελεύσομαι ἀντιβολήσων,
 ξυνὸς ἐπεὶ πάντεσσιν ἐπικρέμαθ' ἡμῖν ὄλεθρος.
 Ἴσκεν εὐφρονέων· ὁ δ' ἀμείβετο τοῖσδ' ἐπέεσσιν·
 485 ὦ πέπον, εἴ νύ τοι αὐτῷ ἐφανεράναι, οὔτι μεγάρω.
 βάσκ' ἴθι καὶ πυκινοῖσι τεῖν παρὰ μητέρα μύθοις
 ὄρνυθι λισσόμενος· μελέη γε μὲν ἡμῖν ὄρωρεν
 ἐλπωρή, ὅτε νόστον ἐπειτραπόμεσθα γυναιξίν.
 ὥς ἔφατ'· ὦκα δ' ἔλος μετεκίαθον. αὐτὰρ ἐταῖροι
 490 γηθόσυνοι ἐρέεινον, ὅπως παρεόντας ἴδοντο·
 τοῖσιν δ' Αἰσονίδης τετιημένος ἔκφατο μῦθον·
 ὦ φίλοι, Αἰήταο ἀπηνέος ἅμμι φίλον κῆρ
 ἀντικρὺ κεχόλωται, ἕκαστα γὰρ οὐ νύ τι τέκμωρ
 οὔτ' ἐμοί, οὔτε κεν ὕμμι διειρομένοισι πέλοιτο.
 495 φῆ δὲ δῦω πεδίον τὸ Ἀρήιον ἀμφινέμεσθαι
 ταύρω χαλκόποδε, στόματι φλόγα φυσίωντας.
 τετράγυον δ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ἐφίετο νειὸν ἀρόσσαι·
 δώσειν δ' ἐξ ὄφιος γενύων σπόρον, ὅς ῥ' ἀνίησιν
 γηγενέας χαλκείοις σὺν τεύχεσιν· ἡματι δ' αὐτῷ
 500 χρεῖω τούσγε δαΐζαι. ὁ δὲ νύ οἱ — οὔτι γὰρ ἄλλω
 βέλτερον ἦν φράσσασθαι — ἀπηλεγέως ὑποέστην.
 ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη· πάντεσσι δ' ἀνήνυτος εἶσατ' ἄεθλος,
 δὴν δ' ἄνεω καὶ ἄναυδοι ἐς ἀλλήλους ὁρόωντο,
 ἄτη ἀμηχανίη τε κατηφέες· ὁψὲ δὲ Πηλεὺς
 505 θαρσαλέως μετὰ πᾶσιν ἀριστήεσσιν ἔειπεν·
 ὥρῃ μητιάσθαι ὃ κ' ἔρξομεν. οὐ μὲν ἔολπα
 βουλῆς εἶναι ὄνειαρ, ὅσον τ' ἐπὶ κάρτεϊ χειρῶν.
 εἰ μὲν νυνὶ τύνῃ ζευῖαι βόας Αἰήταο,
 ἦρωας Αἰσονίδῃ, φρονέεις, μέμονάς τε πόνοιο,
 510 ἦ τ' ἂν ὑποσχεσὶν πεφυλαγμένος ἐντύναιο·
 εἰ δ' οὐ τοι μάλα θυμὸς ἐῖς ἐπὶ πάγχυ πέποιθεν
 ἦγορή, μήτ' αὐτὸς ἐπείγῃ, μήτε τιν' ἄλλον
 τῶνδ' ἀνδρῶν πάπταινε παρήμενος. οὐ γὰρ ἔγωγε
 σχήσομ', ἐπεὶ θάνατός γε τὸ κύντατον ἔσσεται ἄλγος.
 515 ὥς ἔφατ' Αἰακίδης· Τελαμῶνι δὲ θυμὸς ὀρίνθη·
 σπερχόμενος δ' ἀνόρουσε θεῶς· ἐπὶ δὲ τρίτος Ἴδας
 ὦρτο μέγα φρονέων, ἐπὶ δ' υἷε Τυνδαρέοιο·
 σὺν δὲ καὶ Οἰνεΐδης ἐναρίθμιος αἰζηοῖσιν
 ἀνδράσιν, οὐδέ περ ὅσπον ἐπανθιόνοντας ἰούλους
 520 ἀντέλλων· τοίῳ οἱ ἀείρετο κάρτεϊ θυμός.
 οἱ δ' ἄλλοι εἷξαντες ἀκὴν ἔχον. αὐτίκα δ' Ἄργος
 τοῖον ἔπος μετέειπεν ἐλδομένοισιν ἀέθλου·
 ὦ φίλοι, ἦτοι μὲν τόδε λοίσθιον. ἀλλὰ τιν' οἶω
 μητρὸς ἐμῆς ἔσσεσθαι ἐναΐσιμον ὕμμιν ἀρωγὴν.
 525 τῷ καὶ περ μεμαῶτες, ἐρητύοισθ' ἐνὶ νηϊ

τυτθὸν ἔθ', ὥς τὸ πάροιθεν, ἐπεὶ καὶ ἐπισχέμεν ἔμψη
λῶιον, ἢ κακὸν οἶτον ἀφειδήσαντας ἐλέσθαι.

κούρη τις μεγάροισιν ἐνιτρέφετ' Αἰήταο,
τὴν Ἑκάτη περίαλλα θεὰ δάε τεχνήσασθαι

530 φάρμαχ', ὅς' ἤπειρός τε φύει καὶ νήχυτον ὕδωρ,
τοῖσι καὶ ἀκαμάτοιο πρὸς μειλίσσειτ' αὐτμή,
καὶ ποταμοὺς ἴστησιν ἄφαρ κελαδαινὰ ῥέοντας,
ἄστρα τε καὶ μήνης ἱερῆς ἐπέδησε κελεύθους.

τῆς μὲν ἀπὸ μεγάροιο κατὰ στίβον ἐνθάδ' ἰόντες
535 μνησάμεθ', εἴ κε δύναιτο, κασιγνήτη γεγαυῖα,
μήτηρ ἡμετέρη πεπιθεῖν ἐπαρῆξαι ἀέθλω.

εἰ δὲ καὶ αὐτοῖσιν τόδ' ἐφανδάνει, ἧ τ' ἂν ἰκοίμην
ἡματι τῷδ' αὐτῷ πάλιν εἰς δόμον Αἰήταο
πειρήσων: τάχα δ' ἂν σὸν δαίμονι πειρηθείην.'

540 ὧς φάτο: τοῖσι δὲ σῆμα θεοὶ δόσαν εὐμενέοντες.
τρηρὼν μὲν φεύγουσα βίην κίρκοιο πελειᾶς
ὑπόθεν Αἰσονίδεω πεφοβημένη ἔμπεσε κόλποις:
κίρκος δ' ἀφλάστῳ περικάππεσεν. ὦκα δὲ Μόψος
τοῖον ἔπος μετὰ πᾶσι θεοπροπέων ἀγόρευσεν:

545 'ὕμμι, φίλοι, τόδε σῆμα θεῶν ἰότητι τέτυκται:
οὐδέ τη ἄλλως ἐστὶν ὑποκρίνασθαι ἄρειον,
παρθενικὴν δ' ἐπέεσσι μετελθέμεν ἀμφίεποντας
μήτι παντοίῃ. δοκέω δέ μιν οὐκ ἀθερίζειν,
εἰ ἐτεὸν Φινεύς γε θεᾷ ἐνὶ Κύπριδι νόστον

550 ἐφραδεν ἔσσεσθαι. κείνης δ' ὄγε μείλιχος ὄρνις
πότμον ὑπεξήλuxe: κέαρ δέ μοι ὥς ἐνὶ θυμῷ
τόνδε κατ' οἰωνὸν προτιόσσεται, ὧς δὲ πέλοιτο.
ἀλλά, φίλοι, Κυθέρειαν ἐπικλείοντες ἀμύνειν,
ἦδη νῦν Ἀργοιο παραιφασίησι πίθεσθε.'

555 Ἴσκεν: ἐπήνησαν δὲ νέοι, Φινῆος ἐφετμὰς
μνησάμενοι: μοῦνος δ' Ἀφαρήιος ἄνθορεν Ἴδας,
δεῖν' ἐπαλαστήσας μεγάλη ὀπί, φώνησέν τε:
'ὦ πόποι, ἦ ῥα γυναιξὶν ὁμόστολοι ἐνθάδ' ἔβημεν,
οἱ Κύπριν καλέουσιν ἐπίρροθον ἄμμι πέλεσθαι,

560 οὐκέτ' Ἐνυαλίῳ μέγα σθένος: ἐς δὲ πελειᾶς
καὶ κίρκους λεύσσοντες ἐρητύεσθε ἀέθλων;
ἔρρετε, μηδ' ὕμμιν πολεμήια ἔργα μέλοιτο,
παρθενικὰς δὲ λιτῆσιν ἀνάγκιδας ἡπεροπεύειν.'

ὧς ἡὔδα μεμαῶς: πολέες δ' ὁμάδησαν ἐταῖροι
565 ἦκα μάλ', οὐδ' ἄρα τίς οἱ ἐναντίον ἔκφατο μῦθον.
χωόμενος δ' ὄγ' ἔπειτα καθέζετο: τοῖσι δ' Ἰήσων
αὐτίκ' ἐποτρύνων τὸν ἐὸν νόον ὦδ' ἀγόρευεν:
'Ἄργος μὲν παρὰ νηός, ἐπεὶ τόδε πᾶσιν ἔαδεν,
στελλέσθω: ἀτὰρ αὐτοὶ ἐπὶ χθονὸς ἐκ ποταμοῖο

570 ἀμφιδὸν ἤδη πείσματ' ἀνάσσομεν. ἧ γὰρ ἔοικεν
μηκέτι δὴν κρύπτεσθαι ὑποπτήσσοντας αὐτήν.
ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη· καὶ τὸν μὲν ἄφαρ προΐαλλε νέεσθαι
καρπαλίμως ἐξαῦτις ἀνὰ πτόλιν· οἱ δ' ἐπὶ νηὸς
εὐναίας ἐρύσαντες ἐφετμαῖς Αἰσονίδαο
575 τυτθὸν ὑπὲξ ἔλεος χέρσῳ ἐπέκελσαν ἐρετμοῖς.
αὐτίκα δ' Αἰήτης ἀγορὴν ποιήσατο Κόλχων
νόσφιν ἐοῖο δόμου, τόθι περ καὶ πρόσθε κάθιζον,
ἀτλήτους Μινύησι δόλους καὶ κήδεα τεύχων.
στεῦτο δ' , ἐπεὶ κεν πρῶτα βόες διαδηλήσωνται
580 ἄνδρα τόν, ὅς ρ' ὑπέδεκτο βαρὺν καμέεσθαι ἄεθλον,
δρυμὸν ἀναρρήξας λασίης καθύπερθε· κολώνης
αὐτανδρον φλέξειν δόρυ νήιον, ὄφρ' ἀλεγεινὴν
ὕβριν ἀποφλύξωσιν ὑπέρβια μηχανώοντες.
οὐδὲ γὰρ Αἰολίδην Φρίξον μάλα περ χατέοντα
585 δέχθαι ἐνὶ μεγάροισιν ἐφέστιον, ὅς περὶ πάντων
ξείνων μελιχίη τε θεουδείῃ τ' ἐκέκαστο,
εἰ μὴ οἱ Ζεὺς αὐτὸς ἀπ' οὐρανοῦ ἄγγελον ἦκεν
Ἑρμείαν, ὥς κεν προσκηδέος ἀντιάσειεν·
μὴ καὶ ληιστήρας ἐὴν ἐς γαῖαν ἰόντας
590 ἔσσεσθαι δηναιὸν ἀπήμονας, οἷσι μέμνηεν
ὀθνεῖοις ἐπὶ χεῖρα ἐὴν κτεάτεσσιν ἀείρειν,
κρυπταδίους τε δόλους τεκταινέμεν, ἡδὲ βοτήρων
αὔλια δυσκελάδοισιν ἐπιδρομήσιν δαΐζαι.
νόσφι δὲ οἱ αὐτῷ φάτ' ἐοικότα μείλια τίσειν
595 υἱῆας Φρίξοιο, κακορρέκτησιν ὀπηδοῦς
ἀνδράσι νοστήσαντας ὁμιλαδόν, ὄφρα ἐ τιμῆς
καὶ σκήπτρων ἐλάσειαν ἀκηδέες· ὥς ποτε βάζιν
λευγαλέην οὗ πατρὸς ἐπέκλυεν Ἥελίοιο,
χρεῖώ μιν πυκινόν τε δόλον βουλὰς τε γενέθλης
600 σφωιτέρης ἄτην τε πολύτροπον ἐξαλέασθαι·
τῷ καὶ ἐλδομένους πέμπειν ἐς Ἀχαιίδα γαῖαν
πατρὸς ἐφημοσύνη, δολιχὴν ὁδόν. οὐδὲ θυγατρῶν
εἶναι οἱ τυτθὸν γε δέος, μὴ ποῦ τινα μῆτιν
φράσσωνται στυγερὴν, οὐδ' υἱέος Ἀψύρτοιο·
605 ἀλλ' ἐνὶ Χαλκιόπης γενεῇ τάδε λυγρὰ τετύχθαι.
καὶ ρ' ὁ μὲν ἄσχετα ἔργα πιφαύσκετο δημοτέροισιν
χωόμενος· μέγα δὲ σφιν ἀπείλειε νῆά τ' ἔρυσθαι
ἡδ' αὐτούς, ἵνα μήτις ὑπὲκ κακότητος ἀλύξῃ.
τόφρα δὲ μητέρ' ἐὴν, μετιῶν δόμον Αἰήταο,
610 Ἄργος παντοίοισι παρηγορέεσκ' ἐπέεσσιν,
Μήδειαν λίσσεσθαι ἀμυνέμεν· ἡ δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ
πρόσθεν μητιάσκει· δέος δὲ μιν ἴσχανε θυμόν,
μὴ πως ἡὲ παρ' αἴσαν ἐτώσια μειλίζεται

πατρός ἀτυζομένην ὅλοδον χόλον, ἥε λιτῆσιν
615 ἔσπομένης ἀρίδηλα καὶ ἀμπαδὰ ἔργα πέλοιτο.
κούρην δ' ἐξ ἀχέων ἀδινὸς κατελώφεεν ὕπνος
λέκτρῳ ἀνακλινθεῖσαν. ἄφαρ δέ μιν ἠπεροπῆες,
οἷα τ' ἀκηχεμένην, ὅλοοι ἐρέθεσκον ὄνειροι.
τὸν ξεῖνον δ' ἐδόκησεν ὑφεστάμεναι τὸν ἄεθλον,
620 οὐτὶ μάλ' ὀρμαίνοντα δέρος κριοῖο κομίσσαι,
οὐδέ τι τοῖο ἔκητι μετὰ πτόλιν Αἰήταο
ἐλθέμεν, ὄφρα δέ μιν σφέτερον δόμον εἰσαγάγοιτο
κουριδίην παράκοιτιν· οἴετο δ' ἀμφὶ βόεσσιν
αὐτῇ ἀεθλεύουσα μάλ' εὐμαρέως πονέεσθαι·
625 σφωιτέρους δὲ τοκῆας ὑποσχεσίης ἀθερίζειν,
οὐνεκεν οὐ κούρη ζεῦξαι βόας, ἀλλὰ οἱ αὐτῷ
προύθεσαν· ἐκ δ' ἄρα τοῦ νεῖκος πέλεν ἀμφήριστον
πατρί τε καὶ ξείνοις· αὐτῇ δ' ἐπιέτρεπον ἄμφω
τῶς ἔμεν, ὥς κεν ἐῆσι μετὰ φρεσὶν ἰθύσειεν.
630 ἡ δ' ἄφνω τὸν ξεῖνον, ἀφειδήσασα τοκῶν,
εἶλετο· τοὺς δ' ἀμέγαρτον ἄχος λάβεν, ἐκ δ' ἐβόησαν
χωόμενοι· τὴν δ' ὕπνος ἅμα κλαγγῇ μεθέηκεν.
παλλομένη δ' ἀνόρουσε φόβῳ, περὶ τ' ἀμφὶ τε τοίχους
πάπτηνεν θαλάμοιο· μόλις δ' ἐσαγεύρατο θυμὸν
635 ὥς πάρος ἐν στέρνοις, ἀδινὴν δ' ἀνενείκατο φωνήν·
‘δειλὴ ἐγὼν, οἷόν με βαρεῖς ἐφόβησαν ὄνειροι.
δεῖδια, μὴ μέγα δὴ τι φέρη κακὸν ἦδε κέλευθος
ἡρώων. περὶ μοι ξείνῳ φρένες ἠερέθονται.
μνάσθω ἐὼν κατὰ δῆμον Ἀχαιίδα τηλόθι κούρην
640 ἄμμι δὲ παρθενίῃ τε μέλοι καὶ δῶμα τοκῶν.
ἔμπα γε μὴν θεμένη κύνεον κέαρ, οὐκέτ' ἄνευθεν
αὐτοκασιγνήτης πειρήσομαι, εἴ κέ μ' ἀέθλω
χραιομεῖν ἀντιάσῃσιν, ἐπὶ σφετέροις ἀχέουσα
παισί· τό κέν μοι λυγρὸν ἐνὶ κραδίῃ σβέσαι ἄλγος.’
645 ἦ ῥα, καὶ ὀρθωθεῖσα θύρας ὦϊξε δόμοιο,
νήλιπος, οἰέανος· καὶ δὴ λελίητο νέεσθαι
αὐτοκασιγνήτηνδε, καὶ ἔρκεος οὐδὸν ἄμειπεν.
δὴν δὲ καταυτόθι μίμνεν ἐνὶ προδόμῳ θαλάμοιο,
αἰδοῖ ἐεργομένη· μετὰ δ' ἐτράπετ' αὐτὶς ὀπίσσω
650 στρεφθεῖσ'· ἐκ δὲ πάλιν κίεν ἔνδοθεν, ἅψ τ' ἀλέεινεν
εἴσω· τηῦσιοι δὲ πόδες φέρον ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα·
ἦτοι ὅτ' ἰθύσειεν, ἔρुकέ μιν ἔνδοθεν αἰδῶς·
αἰδοῖ δ' ἐργομένην θρασὺς ἱμερος ὀτρύνεσκεν.
τρεῖς μὲν ἐπειρήθη, τρεῖς δ' ἔσχετο, τέτρατον αὐτὶς
655 λέκτροισιν πρηνῆς ἐνικάππεσεν εἰλιχθεῖσα.
ὥς δ' ὅτε τις νύμφη θαλερὸν πόσιν ἐν θαλάμοισιν
μύρεται, ᾧ μιν ὅπασσαν ἀδελφεοὶ ἡδὲ τοκῆες,

οὐδέ τί πω πάσαις ἐπιμίσγεται ἀμφιπόλοισιν
αἰδοῖ ἐπιφροσύνη τε· μυχῶ δ' ἄχέουσα θαάσσει·
660 τὸν δέ τις ὤλεσε μοῖρα, πάρος ταρπήμεναι ἄμφω
δῆνεσιν ἀλλήλων· ἥ δ' ἔνδοθι δαιομένη περ
σῖγα μάλα κλαίει χῆρον λέχος εἰσορόωσα,
μὴ μιν κερτομέουσαι ἐπιστοβέωσι γυναῖκες·
τῇ ἱκέλῃ Μῆδεια κινύρετο. τὴν δέ τις ἄφνω
665 μυρομένην μεσσηγὺς ἐπιπρομολοῦσ' ἐνόησεν
δμῳάων, ἣ οἱ ἐπέτις πέλε κουρίζουσα·
Χαλκίοπη δ' ἤγγειλε παρασχεδόν· ἥ δ' ἐνὶ παισὶν
ἦστ' ἐπιμητιόωσα κασιγνήτην ἀρέσασθαι.
ἀλλ' οὐδ' ὥς ἀπίθησεν, ὅτ' ἔκλυεν ἀμφιπόλοιο
670 μῦθον ἀνώιστον· διὰ δ' ἔσσυτο θαμβήσασα
ἐκ θαλάμου θάλαμόνδε διαμπερές, ᾧ ἐνὶ κούρῃ
κέκλιτ' ἀκηχεμένη, δρῦσεν δ' ἐκάτερθε παρειάς·
ὥς δ' ἶδε δάκρυσιν ὅσσε πεφυρμένα, φώνησέν μιν·
“ὦ μοι ἐγώ, Μῆδεια, τί δὴ τάδε δάκρυα λείβεις;
675 τίπτ' ἔπαθες; τί τοι αἰνὸν ὑπὸ φρένας ἵκετο πένθος;
ἦ νύ σε θευμορίῃ περιδέδρομεν ἄψα νοῦσος,
ἦέ τιν' οὐλομένην ἐδάης ἐκ πατρὸς ἐνιπὴν
ἀμφὶ τ' ἐμοὶ καὶ παισίν; ὄφελλέ με μήτε τοκῆων
δῶμα τόδ' εἰσοράαν, μηδὲ πτόλιν, ἀλλ' ἐπὶ γαίης
680 πείρασι ναιετάειν, ἵνα μηδέ περ οὔνομα Κόλχων.”
ὥς φάτο· τῆς δ' ἐρύθηνε παρήια· δὴν δέ μιν αἰδῶς
παρθενίῃ κατέρυκεν ἀμείψασθαι μεμαυῖαν.
μῦθος δ' ἄλλοτε μὲν οἱ ἐπ' ἀκροτάτης ἀνέτελλεν
γλώσσης, ἄλλοτ' ἔνερθε κατὰ στήθος πεπότητο.
685 πολλάκι δ' ἱμερόεν μὲν ἀνὰ στόμα θυῖεν ἐνισπεῖν·
φοθγγῇ δ' οὐ προύβαινε παροιτέρω· ὁψὲ δ' ἔειπεν
τοῖα δόλω· θρασέες γὰρ ἐπεκλονέεσκον Ἑρωτες·
“Χαλκίοπη, περί μοι παίδων σέο θυμὸς ἄηται,
μὴ σφε πατὴρ ξείνοισι σὺν ἀνδράσιν αὐτίκ' ὀλέσση.
690 τοῖα κατακνώσσοις μινυνθαδίῳ νέον ὕπνῳ
λεύσσω ὀνείρατα λυγρά, τά τις θεὸς ἀκράαντα
θεῖη, μηδ' ἀλεγεινὸν ἐφ' υἷαςι κῆδος ἔλοιο.”
φῆ ῥα, κασιγνήτης πειρωμένη, εἴ κέ μιν αὐτὴ
ἀντιάσειε πάροιθεν ἐοῖς τεκέεσσιν ἀμύνειν.
695 τὴν δ' αἰνῶς ἄτλητος ἐπέκλυσε θυμὸν ἀνίη
δείματι, τοῖ' ἐσάκουσεν· ἀμείβετο δ' ὥδ' ἐπέεσσιν·
“καὶ δ' αὐτὴ τάδε πάντα μετήλυθον ὀρμαίνουσα,
εἴ τινα συμφράσσαιο καὶ ἀρτύνειας ἀρωγὴν.
ἀλλ' ὁμοσον Γαῖάν τε καὶ Οὐρανόν, ὅττι τοι εἴπω
700 σχήσειν ἐν θυμῷ, σὺν τε δρηστήειρα πέλεσθαι.
λίσσομ' ὑπὲρ μακάρων σέο τ' αὐτῆς ἡδὲ τοκῆων,

μὴ σφε κακῇ ὑπὸ κηρὶ διαρραισθέντας ἰδέσθαι
 λευγαλέως· ἥ σοίγε φίλοις σὺν παισὶ θανοῦσα
 εἶην ἐξ Αἰδέω στυγερὴ μετόπισθεν Ἑρινύς.
 705 ὣς ἄρ' ἔφη, τὸ δὲ πολλὸν ὑπεξέχυτ' αὐτίκα δάκρυ·
 νειόθι θ' ἀμφοτέρησι περίσχετο γούνατα χερσίν,
 σὺν δὲ κάρη κόλποις περικάββαλεν. ἔνθ' ἔλειπεν
 ἄμφω ἐπ' ἀλλήλῃσι θέσαν γόον· ὦρτο δ' ἰωὴ
 λεπταλὴ διὰ δώματ' ὀδυρομένων ἀχέεσσιν.
 710 τὴν δὲ πάρος Μήδεια προσέννεπεν ἀσχαλώουσα·
 'δαιμονίη, τί νύ τοι ῥέξω ἄκος, οἳ' ἀγορεύεις,
 ἀράς τε στυγεράς καὶ Ἑρινύας; αἷ γὰρ ὄφελλεν
 ἔμπεδον εἶναι ἐπ' ἅμμι τεοὺς υἱῆας ἔρυσθαι.
 ἴστω Κόλχων ὄρκος ὑπέρβιος ὄντιν' ὁμόσσαι
 715 αὐτὴ ἐποτρύνεις, μέγας Οὐρανός, ἥ θ' ὑπένερθεν
 γαῖα, θεῶν μήτηρ, ὅσπον σθένος ἐστὶν ἐμεῖο,
 μὴ σ' ἐπιδευήσεσθαι, ἀνυστά περ ἀντιώσαν.
 φῆ ἄρα· Χαλκιόπη δ' ἡμείβετο τοῖσδ' ἐπέεσσιν·
 'οὐκ ἂν δὴ ξείνῳ τλαίης χατέοντι καὶ αὐτῷ
 720 ἡ δόλον, ἥ τινα μῆτιν ἐπιφράσσασθαι ἀέθλου,
 παίδων εἵνεκ' ἐμεῖο; καὶ ἐκ κείνοιο δ' ἰκάνει
 Ἄργος, ἐποτρύνων με τεῆς πειρῆσαι ἀρωγῆς·
 μεσσηγὺς μὲν τόνγε δόμῳ λίπον ἐνθάδ' ἰοῦσα.
 ὣς φάτο· τῇ δ' ἔντοσθεν ἀνέπτατο χάρματι θυμός,
 725 φοινίχθη δ' ἄμυδις καλὸν χροά, καδ δέ μιν ἀχλὺς
 εἶλεν ἱαινομένην, τοῖον δ' ἐπὶ μῦθον ἔειπεν·
 'Χαλκιόπη, ὥς ὅμμι φίλον τερπνόν τε τέτυκται,
 ὥς ἔρξω. μὴ γάρ μοι ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖσι φαεῖνοι
 ἠώς, μηδὲ με δηρὸν ἔτι ζώουσιν ἴδιοιο,
 730 εἴ γέ τι σῆς ψυχῆς προφερέστερον, ἥ ἐ τι παίδων
 σῶν θείην, οἳ δὴ μοι ἀδελφείοι γεγάσιν,
 κηδεμόνες τε φίλοι καὶ ὁμήλικες. ὥς δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ
 φημὶ κασιγνήτη τε σέθεν κούρη τε πέλεσθαι,
 ἴσον ἐπεὶ κείνοις με τεῷ ἐπαείραο μαζῷ
 735 νηπυτίην, ὥς αἰὲν ἐγὼ ποτε μητρὸς ἄκουον.
 ἀλλ' ἴθι, κεῦθε δ' ἐμὴν σιγῇ χάριν, ὄφρα τοκῆας
 λήσομαι ἐντύνουσα ὑπόσχεσιν· ἦρι δὲ νηὸν
 οἴσομαι εἰς Ἑκάτης θελκτῆρια φάρμακα ταύρων.'
 740 ὣς ἦγ' ἐκ θαλάμοιο πάλιν κίε, παισὶ τ' ἀρωγὴν
 αὐτοκασιγνήτης διεπέφραδε. τὴν δὲ μιν αὖτις
 αἰδώς τε στυγερὸν τε δέος λάβε μουνωθεῖσαν,
 τοῖα παρὲξ οὗ πατρὸς ἐπ' ἀνέρι μητιάσθαι.
 νύξ μὲν ἔπειτ' ἐπὶ γαῖαν ἄγεν κνέφας· οἳ δ' ἐνὶ πόντῳ
 745 ναῦται εἰς Ἑλίκην τε καὶ ἀστέρας Ὠρίωνος
 ἔδρακον ἐκ νηῶν· ὕπνοιο δὲ καὶ τις ὁδίτης

ἤδη καὶ πυλαωρὸς ἐέλδετο· καὶ τινα παίδων
μητέρα τεθνεώτων ἀδινὸν περὶ κῶμ' ἐκάλυπτεν·
οὐδὲ κυνῶν ὑλακὴ ἔτ' ἀνὰ πτόλιν, οὐ θρόος ἦεν
750 ἡχήεις· σιγὴ δὲ μελαινομένην ἔχεν ὄρφνην.
ἀλλὰ μάλ' οὐ Μήδειαν ἐπὶ γλυκερὸς λάβεν ὕπνος.
πολλὰ γὰρ Αἰσονίδαο πόθῳ μελεδήματ' ἔγειρεν
δειδυῖαν ταύρων κρατερὸν μένος, οἷσιν ἔμελλεν
φθίσθαι ἀεικελίῃ μοίρῃ κατὰ νειὸν Ἄρης.

755 πυκνὰ δέ οἱ κραδίῃ στηθέων ἔντοσθεν ἔθυιεν,
ἡελίου ὥς τίς τε δόμοις ἐνιπάλλεται αἶγλη
ὑδατος ἐξανιοῦσα, τὸ δὴ νέον ἡ ἐλέβητι
ἡέ που ἐν γαυλῷ κέχυται· ἡ δ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα
ὠκείῃ στροφάλλιγγι τινάσσεται αἰίσουσα·

760 ὥς δὲ καὶ ἐν στηθέσσι κέαρ ἐλελίζετο κούρης.
δάκρυ δ' ἀπ' ὀφθαλμῶν ἐλέῳ ῥέεν· ἔνδοθι δ' αἰεὶ
τεῖρ' ὀδύνη σμύχουσα διὰ χροός, ἀμφὶ τ' ἀραιὰς
ἵνας καὶ κεφαλῆς ὑπὸ νείατον ἰνίον ἄχρης,
ἐνθ' ἀλεγεινότατον δύνει ἄχος, ὅππότε' ἀνίας

765 ἀκάματοι πραπίδεςσιν ἐνισκίμψωσιν Ἔρωτες.
φῆ δέ οἱ ἄλλοτε μὲν θελκτήρια φάρμακα ταύρων
δωσέμεν, ἄλλοτε δ' οὔτι· καταφθίσθαι δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ·
αὐτίκα δ' οὔτ' αὐτὴ θανέειν, οὐ φάρμακα δώσειν,
ἀλλ' αὐτῶς εὖκηλος ἐὴν ὀτλησέμεν ἄτην.

770 ἐξομένη δῆπεια δοάσσατο, φώνησέν τε·
‘δειλὴ ἐγὼ, νῦν ἔνθα κακῶν ἢ ἔνθα γένωμαι;
πάντῃ μοι φρένες εἰσὶν ἀμήχανοι· οὐδέ τις ἀλκὴ
πήματος· ἀλλ' αὐτῶς φλέγει ἔμπεδον· ὥς ὄφελόν γε
Ἀρτέμιδος κραιπνοῖσι πάρος βελέεσσι δαμῆναι,

775 πρὶν τόνγ' εἰσιδέειν, πρὶν Ἀχαιίδα γαῖαν ἰκέσθαι
Χαλκιοῦ πηγῆς. τοὺς μὲν θεὸς ἢ τις Ἑρινὺς
ἄμμι πολυκλαυτοὺς δεῦρ' ἦγαγε κεῖθεν ἀνίας.

φθίσθω ἀεθλεύων, εἴ οἱ κατὰ νειὸν ὀλέσθαι
μοῖρα πέλει. πῶς γάρ κεν ἐμοὺς λελάθοιμι τοκῆας
780 φάρμακα μησαμένη; ποῖον δ' ἐπὶ μῦθον ἐνὶ ψῶ;
τίς δὲ δόλος, τίς μῆτις ἐπὶ κλοπῇς ἔσσειτ' ἀρωγῆς;
ἦ μιν ἄνευθ' ἐτάρων προσπτόζομαι οἷον ἰδοῦσα;
δύσμορος· οὐ μὲν ἔολπα καταφθιμένοιο περ ἔμψης
λωφίσειν ἀχέων· τότε δ' ἂν κακὸν ἄμμι πέλοιτο,

785 κεῖνος ὅτε ζωῆς ἀπαμείρεται. ἐρρέτω αἰδῶς,
ἐρρέτω ἀγλαΐῃ· ὁ δ' ἐμῇ ἰότητι σαωθεῖς
ἀσκηθῆς, ἵνα οἱ θυμῷ φίλον, ἔνθα νέοιτο.
αὐτὰρ ἐγὼν αὐτῇμαρ, ὅτ' ἐξανύσειεν ἄεθλον,
τεθναῖν, ἢ λαιμὸν ἀναρτήσασα μελάθρῳ,
790 ἢ καὶ πασσαμένη ῥαιστήρια φάρμακα θυμοῦ.

ἀλλὰ καὶ ὥς φθιμένη μοι ἐπιλιξουσιν ὀπίσσω
κερτομίας· τηλοῦ δὲ πόλις περὶ πᾶσα βοήσει
πότμον ἐμόν· καὶ κέν με διὰ στόματος φορέουσαι
Κολχίδες ἄλλυδις ἄλλαι ἀεικέα μωμήσονται·

795 ἦτις κηδομένη τόσον ἀνέρος ἄλλοδαποῖο
κάθθανεν, ἦτις δῶμα καὶ οὖς ἥσχυνε τοκῆας,
μαργοσύνη εἷξασα. τί δ' οὐκ ἐμόν ἔσσεται αἴσχος;
ὦ μοι ἐμῆς ἄτης. ἦ τ' ἂν πολὺ κέρδιον εἴη
τῇδ' αὐτῇ ἐν νυκτὶ λιπεῖν βίον ἐν θαλάμοισιν

800 πότμῳ ἀνωίστῳ, κάκ' ἐλέγχεα πάντα φυγοῦσαν,
πρὶν τάδε λωβήεντα καὶ οὐκ ὀνομαστὰ τελέσσαι·

ἦ, καὶ φωριαμὸν μετεκίαθεν, ἦ ἔνι πολλὰ
φάρμακά οἱ, τὰ μὲν ἐσθλά, τὰ δὲ ραιστήρι', ἔκειτο.
ἐνθεμένη δ' ἐπὶ γούνατ' ὀδύρετο. δεῦε δὲ κόλπους

805 ἄλληκτον δακρύοισι, τὰ δ' ἔρρεεν ἀσταγὲς αὐτῶς,
αἶν' ὀλοφυρομένης τὸν ἐόν μόρον. ἔτο δ' ἤγε
φάρμακα λέξασθαι θυμοφθόρα, τόφρα πάσαιτο.

ἦδη καὶ δεσμοὺς ἀνελύετο φωριαμοῖο,
ἐξελέειν μεμαυῖα, δυσάμμορος. ἀλλὰ οἱ ἄφνω
810 δεῖμ' ὀλοὸν στυγεροῖο κατὰ φρένας ἦλθ' Αἴδαο.

ἔσχετο δ' ἀμφασίῃ δηρὸν χρόνον, ἀμφὶ δὲ πᾶσαι
θυμηδεῖς βιότοιο μεληδόνες ἰνδάλλοντο.

μνήσατο μὲν τερπνῶν, ὅς' ἐνὶ ζωοῖσι πέλονται,
μνήσασθ' ὀμηλικίης περιγηθέος, οἷά τε κούρη·

815 καὶ τέ οἱ ἥελιος γλυκίων γένετ' εἰσοράσθαι,
ἦ πάρος, εἰ ἐτεόν γε νόῳ ἐπεμαίεθ' ἕκαστα.

καὶ τὴν μὲν ῥα πάλιν σφετέρων ἀποκάθετο γούνων,
Ἥρης ἐννεσίῃσι μετὰτροπος, οὐδ' ἔτι βουλάς
ἄλλη δοιάζεσκεν· ἐέλδετο δ' αἶψα φανῆναι

820 ἥῳ τελλομένην, ἵνα οἱ θελκτήρια δοίῃ
φάρμακα συνθεσίῃσι, καὶ ἀντήσειεν ἐς ὥπην.

πυκνὰ δ' ἀνὰ κληῖδας ἔῳ λύεσκε θυράων,
αἶγλην σκεπτομένη· τῇ δ' ἀσπασίον βάλε φέγγος
Ἥριγενῆς, κίνυντο δ' ἀνὰ πτολίεθρον ἕκαστοι.

825 ἔνθα κασιγνήτους μὲν ἔτ' αὐτόθι μέναι ἀνώγει
Ἄργος, ἵνα φράζοιντο νόον καὶ μῆδεα κούρης·
αὐτὸς δ' αὖτ' ἐπὶ νῆα κίεν προπάροιθε λιασθείς.

ἦ δ' ἐπεὶ οὖν τὰ πρῶτα φαινομένην ἶδεν ἥῳ
παρθενική, ξανθὰς μὲν ἀνήψατο χερσὶν ἐθείρας,

830 αἶ οἱ ἀτημελίῃ καταειμέναι ἠερέθοντο,
αὐσταλέας δ' ἔψησε παρηίδας· αὐτὰρ ἀλοιφῇ
νεκταρὲ φαιδρύνετ' ἐπὶ χροά· δύνε δὲ πέπλον
καλόν, ἐυγνάμπτοισιν ἀρηρέμενον περόνησιν·

ἀμβροσίῳ δ' ἐφύπερθε καρήατι βάλλε καλύπτρην

835 ἄργυφέν· αὐτοῦ δὲ δόμοις ἐνὶ δινεύουσα
στεῖβε πέδον λήθη ἄχέων, τά οἱ ἐν ποσὶν ἦεν
θεσπέσι', ἄλλα τ' ἔμελλεν ἀεξήσασθαι ὀπίσσω.
κέκλετο δ' ἀμφιπόλοις, αἳ οἱ δυοκαίδεκα πᾶσαι
ἐν προδόμῳ θαλάμοιο θυώδεος ηὔλιζοντο
840 ἥλικες, οὐπω λέκτρα σὺν ἀνδράσι πορσύνουσαι,
ἐσσυμένως οὐρῆας ὑποζεύξασθαι ἀπήνη,
οἳ κέ μιν εἰς Ἑκάτης περικαλλέα νηὸν ἄγοιεν.
ἐνθ' αὖτ' ἀμφίπολοι μὲν ἐφοπλίζεσκον ἀπήνην·
ἡ δὲ τέως γλαφυρῆς ἐξείλετο φωριαμοῖο
845 φάρμακον, ὃ ρά τέ φασι Προμήθειον καλέεσθαι.
τῷ εἴ κ' ἐννυχίοισιν ἄρεσσάμενος θυέεσσιν
κούρην μουνογένειαν ἐὼν δέμας ἱκμαίνοιτο,
ἦ τ' ἂν ὄγ' οὔτε ῥηκτὸς ἔοι χαλκοῖο τυπῆσιν,
οὔτε κεν αἰθομένῳ πυρὶ εἰκάθοι· ἀλλὰ καὶ ἄλκῃ
850 λωίτερος κεῖν' ἡμαρ ὁμῶς κάρτει τε πέλοιτο.
πρωτοφυῆς τόγ' ἀνέσχε καταστάξαντος ἔραζε
αἰετοῦ ὠμηστέῳ κνημοῖς ἐνὶ Καυκασίοισιν
αἱματόεντ' ἰχῶρα Προμηθῆος μογεροῖο.
τοῦ δ' ἦτοι ἄνθος μὲν ὅσον πήχυνον ὑπερθεν
855 χροῖῃ Κωρυκίῳ ἵκελον κρόκῳ ἐξεφάνθη,
καυλοῖσιν διδύμοισιν ἐπήγορον· ἡ δ' ἐνὶ γαίῃ
σαρκὶ νεοτμήτῳ ἐναλιγκίῃ ἔπλετο ρίζα.
τῆς οἶν τ' ἐν ὄρεσσι κελαινὴν ἱκμάδα φηγοῦ
Κασπίῃ ἐν κόχλῳ ἀμήσατο φαρμάσσεσθαι,
860 ἐπτά μὲν ἀενάοισι λοεσσαμένη ὑδάτεσσιν,
ἐπτάκι δὲ Βριμῶ κουροτρόφον ἀγκαλέεσσα,
Βριμῶ νυκτιπόλον, χθονίνην, ἐνέροισιν ἄνασσαν,
λυγαίῃ ἐνὶ νυκτί, σὺν ὀρφναίοις φαρέεσσιν.
μυκηθμῷ δ' ὑπένερθεν ἐρεμνὴ σείετο γαῖα,
865 ρίζης τεμνομένης Τιτηνίδος· ἔστενε δ' αὐτὸς
Ἰαπετοῖο πάις ὀδύνῃ πέρι θυμὸν ἀλύων.
τό ρ' ἦγ' ἐξανελούσα θυώδεϊ κάτθετο μήτρῃ,
ἦ τέ οἱ ἀμβροσίοισι περὶ στήθεσσιν ἔερτο.
ἐκ δὲ θύραζε κιοῦσα θεῆς ἐπεβήσατ' ἀπήνης·
870 σὺν δὲ οἱ ἀμφίπολοι δοιαὶ ἐκάτερθεν ἔβησαν.
αὐτὴ δ' ἡνί' ἔδεκτο καὶ εὐποίητον ἰμάσθλην
δεξιτερῇ, ἔλαεν δὲ δι' ἄστεος· αἱ δὲ δὴ ἄλλαι
ἀμφίπολοι, πείρινθος ἐφαπτόμεναι μετόπισθεν,
τρώων εὐρεῖαν κατ' ἀμαξιτόν· ἂν δὲ χιτῶνας
875 λεπταλέους λευκῆς ἐπιγουνίδος ἄχρῃς ἄειρον.
οἷῃ δὲ λιαροῖσιν ἐφ' ὕδασι Παρθενίοιο,
ἠὲ καὶ Ἀμνισοῖο λοεσσαμένη ποταμοῖο
χρυσείοις Λητωῖς ἐφ' ἄρμασιν ἐστηυῖα

ὠκείαις κεμάδεσσι διεξέλασθησι κολῶνας,
880 τηλόθεν ἀντιόωσα πολυκνίσου ἐκατόμβης·
τῇ δ' ἅμα νύμφαι ἔπονται ἀμορβάδες, αἱ μὲν ἐπ' αὐτῆς
ἀγρόμεναι πηγῆς Ἀμνισίδος, ἃν δὲ δὴ ἄλλαι
ἄλσεα καὶ σκοπιάς πολυπίδακας· ἀμφὶ δὲ θῆρες
κνυζηθμῷ σαίνουσιν ὑποτρομέοντες ἰοῦσαν·
885 ὥς αἶγ' ἐσσεύοντο δι' ἄστεος· ἀμφὶ δὲ λαοὶ
εἶκον, ἀλευάμενοι βασιλίδος ὄμματα κούρης.
αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ πόλιος μὲν ἐυδμήτους λίπ' ἀγυιάς,
νηὸν δ' εἰσαφίκανε διέκ πεδίων ἐλάουσα,
δὴ τότε' ἐντροχάλιοι κατ' αὐτόθι βήσας· ἀπήνης
890 ἰεμένη, καὶ τοῖα μετὰ δμῶησιν ἔειπεν·
'ὦ φίλοι, ἧ μέγα δὴ τι παρήλιτον, οὐδ' ἐνόησα
μὴ ἵμεν ἀλλοδαποῖσι μετ' ἀνδράσιν, οἳ τ' ἐπὶ γαῖαν
ἡμετέρην στρωφῶσιν. ἀμηχανίη βεβόληται
πᾶσα πόλις· τὸ καὶ οὐ τις ἀνήλυθε δεῦρο γυναικῶν
895 τάων, αἱ τὸ πάροιθεν ἐπημάτια ἀγέρονται.
ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ οὖν ἰκόμεσθα, καὶ οὐ νύ τις ἄλλος ἔπεισιν,
εἰ δ' ἄγε μολπῇ θυμὸν ἀφειδείως κορέσωμεν
μειλιχίῃ, τὰ δὲ καλὰ τερείνης ἄνθεα ποίης
λεξάμεναι τότε' ἔπειτ' αὐτὴν ἀπονισσόμεθ' ὥρην.
900 καὶ δέ κε σὺν πολέεσσιν ὄνειάσιν οἴκαδ' ἵκοισθε
ἡματι τῷ, εἴ μοι συναρέσσετε τήνδε μενοινήν.
Ἄργος γάρ μ' ἐπέεσσι παρατρέπει, ὥς δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ
Χαλκίόπη· τὰ δὲ σῖγα νόῳ ἔχειτ' εἰσαΐουσαι
ἐξ ἐμέθεν, μὴ πατρὸς ἐς οὐατα μῦθος ἴκηται.
905 τὸν ξεινόν με κέλονται, ὅτις περὶ βουσὶν ὑπέστη,
δῶρ' ἀποδεξαμένην ὀλοῶν ρύσασθαι ἀέθλων.
αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ τὸν μῦθον ἐπῆνεον, ἡδὲ καὶ αὐτὸν
κέκλωμαι εἰς ὤπην ἐτάρων ἅπο μοῦνον ἰκέσθαι,
ὄφρα τὰ μὲν δασόμεσθα μετὰ σφίσιν, εἴ κεν ὀάσση
910 δῶρα φέρων, τῷ δ' αὖτε κακώτερον ἄλλο πόρωμεν
φάρμακον. ἀλλ' ἀπονόσφι πέλεσθέ μοι, εἴτ' ἂν ἴκηται.'
ὥς ἡῦδα· πάσῃσι δ' ἐπὶ κλοπος ἦνδανε μῆτις.
αὐτίκα δ' Αἰσονίδην ἐτάρων ἅπο μοῦνον ἐρύσας
Ἄργος, ὅτ' ἦδη τήνδε κασιγνήτων ἐσάκουσεν
915 ἡερίην Ἑκάτης ἱερὸν μετὰ νηὸν ἰοῦσαν,
ἦγε διέκ πεδίου· ἅμα δὲ σφισιν εἶπετο Μόσχος
Ἀμπυκίδης, ἐσθλὸς μὲν ἐπιπροφανέντας ἐνισπεῖν
οἰωνούς, ἐσθλὸς δὲ σὺν εὖ φράσσασθαι ἰοῦσιν.
ἐνθ' οὐπω τις τοῖος ἐπὶ προτέρων γένετ' ἀνδρῶν,
920 οὐθ' ὅσοι ἐξ αὐτοῖο Διὸς γένος, οὐθ' ὅσοι ἄλλων
ἀθανάτων ἥρωες ἀφ' αἵματος ἐβλάστησαν,
οἷον Ἰήσονα θῆκε Διὸς δάμαρ ἡματι κείνῳ

ἤμὲν ἐσάντα ἰδεῖν, ἥδὲ προτιμυθήσασθαι.
 τὸν καὶ παπταίνοντες ἐθάμβεον αὐτοὶ ἐταῖροι
 925 λαμπόμενον χαρίτεσσιν: ἐγήθησεν δὲ κελεύθῳ
 Ἀμπυκίδης, ἥδη πού οἰσάμενος τὰ ἕκαστα.
 ἔστι δὲ τις πεδίοιο κατὰ στίβον ἐγγύθι νηοῦ
 αἶγειρος φύλλοισιν ἀπειρεσίοις κομόωσα,
 τῇ θαμὰ δὴ λακέρυζαι ἐπηυλίζοντο κορῶναι.
 930 τάων τις μεσσηγὺς ἀνὰ πτερὰ κινήσασα
 ὑποῦ ἐπ' ἀκρεμόνων Ἥρης ἠνίπαπε βουλάς:
 'Ἀκλειῆς ὄδε μάντις, ὃς οὐδ' ὅσα παῖδες ἴσασιν
 οἶδε νόφ' φράσσασθαι, ὁθύνεκεν οὔτε τι λαρὸν
 οὔτ' ἐρατὸν κούρη κεν ἔπος προτιμυθήσαιο
 935 ἠθέω, εὗτ' ἂν σφιν ἐπήλυδες ἄλλοι ἔπωνται.
 ἔρροις, ὦ κακόμαντι, κακοφραδές: οὔτε σε Κύπρις,
 οὔτ' ἀγανοὶ φιλέοντες ἐπιπνεῖουσιν Ἑρωτες.'
 Ἴσκεν ἀτεμβομένη: μείδησε δὲ Μόψος ἀκούσας
 ὁμφὴν οἰωνοῖο θεήλατον, ὧδέ τ' ἔειπεν:
 940 'τύνη μὲν νηόνδε θεᾶς ἴθι, τῷ ἐνὶ κούρην
 δῆεις, Αἰσονίδη: μάλα δ' ἠπίη ἀντιβολήσεις
 Κύπριδος ἐννεσίης, ἥ τοι συνέριθος ἀέθλων
 ἔσσεται, ὥς δὴ καὶ πρὶν Ἀγηνορίδης φάτο Φινεύς.
 νῶϊ δ', ἐγὼν Ἄργος τε, δεδεγμένοι, εὗτ' ἂν ἴκηαι,
 945 τῷδ' αὐτῷ ἐνὶ χώρῳ ἀπεσσόμεθ': οἰόθι δ' αὐτὸς
 λίσσεό μιν πυκινοῖσι παρατροπέων ἐπέεσσιν.'
 ἦ ῥα περιφραδέως, ἐπὶ δὲ σχεδὸν ἦνεον ἄμφω.
 οὐδ' ἄρα Μηδεῖης θυμὸς τράπετ' ἄλλα νοῆσαι,
 μελομένης περ ὅμως: πᾶσαι δέ οἱ, ἦντιν' ἀθύροι
 950 μολπὴν, οὐκ ἐπὶ δηρὸν ἐφήνδανεν ἐννιάσθαι.
 ἀλλὰ μεταλλήγεσκεν ἀμήχανος, οὐδέ ποτ' ὄσσε
 ἀμφιπόλων μεθ' ὁμίλον ἔχ' ἀτρέμας: ἐς δὲ κελεύθους
 τηλόσε παπταίνεσκε, παρακλίνουσα παρειάς.
 ἦ θαμὰ δὴ στηθέων ἐάγη κέαρ, ὅπποτε δοῦπον
 955 ἦ ποδὸς ἦ ἀνέμοιο παραθρέξαντα δοάσσαι.
 αὐτὰρ ὅγ' οὐ μετὰ δηρὸν ἐελδομένη ἐφάάνθη
 ὑπὸς ἀναθρώσκων ἅ τε Σείριος Ὠκεανοῖο,
 ὃς δὴ τοι καλὸς μὲν ἀρίζηλός τ' ἐσιδέσθαι
 ἀντέλλει, μήλοισι δ' ἐν ἄσπετον ἦκεν οἰζύν:
 960 ὥς ἄρα τῇ καλὸς μὲν ἐπήλυθεν εἰσοράσθαι
 Αἰσονίδης, κάματον δὲ δυσίμερον ὥρσε φανθείς.
 ἐκ δ' ἄρα οἱ κραδίη στηθέων πέσεν, ὅμματα δ' αὐτῶς
 ἤγλυσαν: θερμὸν δὲ παρηίδας εἴλεν ἔρευθος.
 γούνατα δ' οὔτ' ὀπίσω οὔτε προπάροιθεν ἀεῖραι
 965 ἔσθενεν, ἀλλ' ὑπένερθε πάγῃ πόδας, αἰ δ' ἄρα τείως
 ἀμφίπολοι μάλα πᾶσαι ἀπὸ σφείων ἐλίασθεν.

τῷ δ' ἄνεφ' καὶ ἄνανδοι ἐφέστασαν ἀλλήλοισιν,
ἢ δρυσίν, ἢ μακρῇσιν ἐειδόμενοι ἐλάτῃσιν,
αἶ τε παρᾶσσον ἔκηλοι ἐν οὐρεσιν ἐρρίζωνται,
970 νηνεμίη· μετὰ δ' αὖτις ὑπὸ ῥιπῆς ἀνέμοιο
κινύμεναι ὁμάδησαν ἀπείριτον· ὥς ἄρα τώγε
μέλλον ἄλις φθέγγασθαι ὑπὸ πνοιῇσιν Ἔρωτος.
γνῶ δέ μιν Αἰσονίδης ἄτῃ ἐνιπεπτηυῖαν
θευμορίη, καὶ τοῖον ὑποσσαίνων φάτο μῦθον:

975 'τίπτε με, παρθενική, τόσον ἄζεαι, οἷον ἐόντα;
οὐ τοι ἐγών, οἳοί τε δυσσαυχέες ἄλλοι ἔασιν
ἄνδρες, οὐδ' ὅτε περ πάτρη ἐνι ναιετάασκον,
ἦα πάρος. τῷ μὴ με λίην ὑπεραΐδεις, κούρη,
ἢ τι παρεξέρεσθαι, ὅ τοι φίλον, ἢ τι φάσθαι.

980 ἄλλ' ἐπεὶ ἀλλήλοισιν ἱκάνομεν εὐμενέοντες,
χώρῳ ἐν ἡγαθέῳ, ἵνα τ' οὐ θέμις ἔστ' ἀλιτέσθαι,
ἀμφαδίην ἀγόρευε καὶ εἴρεο· μηδέ με τερπνοῖς
φηλώσης ἐπέεσσιν, ἐπεὶ τὸ πρῶτον ὑπέστης
αὐτοκασιγνήτῃ μενοεικέα φάρμακα δώσειν.

985 πρὸς σ' αὐτῆς Ἑκάτης μειλίσσομαι ἠδὲ τοκῆων
καὶ Διός, ὃς ξείνοισι ἱκέτῃσί τε χεῖρ' ὑπερίσχει·
ἀμφοτέρων δ', ἱκέτης ξεινός τέ τοι ἐνθάδ' ἱκάνω,
χρηιοῖ ἀναγκαίῃ γουνούμενος. οὐ γὰρ ἄνευθεν
ὑμείων στονόεντος ὑπέρτερος ἔσσομ' ἀέθλου.

990 σοὶ δ' ἂν ἐγὼ τίσαιμι χάριν μετόπισθεν ἀρωγῆς,
ἢ θέμις, ὥς ἐπέοικε διάνδιχα ναιετάοντας,
οὕνομα καὶ καλὸν τεύχων κλέος· ὥς δὲ καὶ ὦλλοι
ἥρωες κλήσουσιν ἐς Ἑλλάδα νοστήσαντες
ἡρώων τ' ἄλοχοι καὶ μητέρες, αἶ νύ που ἦδη

995 ἡμέας ἠιόνεσσιν ἐφεζόμεναι γοάουσιν·
τάων ἀργαλέας κεν ἀποσκεδάσειας ἀνίας.
δὴ ποτε καὶ Θησῆα κακῶν ὑπελύσατ' ἀέθλων
παρθενικὴ Μινωῖς εὐφρονέουσ' Ἀριάδνη,
ἦν ῥά τε Πασιφάη κούρη τέκεν Ἥελιοιο.

1000 ἄλλ' ἢ μὲν καὶ νηός, ἐπεὶ χόλον εὖνασε Μίνως,
σὺν τῷ ἐφεζομένη πάτρην λίπε· τὴν δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ
ἄθᾶνatoi φίλαντο, μέσῳ δὲ οἱ αἰθέρι τέκμαρ
ἄστερόεις στέφανος, τόν τε κλείουσ' Ἀριάδνης,
πάννυχρος οὐρανίοισιν ἐλίσσεται εἰδώλοισιν.

1005 ὥς καὶ σοὶ θεόθεν χάρις ἔσσεται, εἴ κε σωῶσης
τόσσον ἀριστῆων ἀνδρῶν στόλον. ἦ γὰρ ἔοικας
ἐκ μορφῆς ἀγανῆσιν ἐπῃτείησι κεκάσθαι.
ὥς φάτο κυδαίνων· ἡ δ' ἐγκλιδὸν ὅσσε βαλοῦσα
νεκτάρειον μείδησ' ἐχύθη δὲ οἱ ἐνδοθι θυμὸς

1010 αἶνφ' ἀειρομένης, καὶ ἀνέδρακεν ὄμμασιν ἄντην:

οὐδ' ἔχεν ὅτι πάροιθεν ἔπος προτιμυθήσαιτο,
 ἀλλ' ἄμυδις μενέαιεν ἀολλέα πάντ' ἀγορευῆσαι.
 προπρὸ δ' ἀφειδήσασα θυώδεος ἔξελε μίτρης
 φάρμακον: αὐτὰρ ὃγ' αἶψα χεροῖν ὑπέδεκτο γεγηθώς.
 1015 καὶ νύ κέ οἱ καὶ πᾶσαν ἀπὸ στηθέων ἀρύσασα
 ψυχὴν ἐγγυάλιξεν ἀγαιομένη χατέοντι:
 τοῖος ἀπὸ ξανθοῖο καρήατος Αἰσονίδαο
 στράπτειν Ἔρωσ ἠδεῖαν ἀπὸ φλόγα: τῆς δ' ἀμαρυγὰς
 ὀφθαλμῶν ἥρπαζεν: ἰαίνειτο δὲ φρένας εἶσω
 1020 τηκομένη, οἷόν τε περὶ ῥοδέησιν ἐέρση
 τήκεται ἠέροις ἰαινομένη φαέεσσιν.
 ἄμφω δ' ἄλλοτε μὲν τε κατ' οὐδεὸς ὄμματ' ἔρειδον
 αἰδόμενοι, ὅτε δ' αὖτις ἐπὶ σφίσι βάλλον ὀπωπὰς,
 ἱμερόεν φαιδρῆσιν ὑπ' ὀφρύσι μειδιόωντες.
 1025 ὃπὲρ δὲ δὴ τοίοισι μόλις προσπτύζατο κούρη:
 'φράζω νῦν, ὥς κέν τοι ἐγὼ μητίσομ' ἀρωγὴν.
 εὖτ' ἂν δὴ μετιόντι πατὴρ ἐμὸς ἐγγυαλίξῃ
 ἐξ ὄφιος γενύων ὀλοοὺς σπεύρασθαι ὀδόντας,
 δὴ τότε μέσσην νύκτα διαμμοιρηδὰ φυλάξας,
 1030 ἀκαμάτοιο ῥοῆσι λοεσσάμενος ποταμοῖο,
 οἷος ἄνευθ' ἄλλων ἐνὶ φάρεσι κυανέοισιν
 βόθρον ὀρύξασθαι περιηγέα: τῷ δ' ἐνὶ θῆλυν
 ἀρνειὸν σφάζειν, καὶ ἀδαίετον ὠμοθετῆσαι,
 αὐτῷ πυρκαϊὴν εὖ νηήσας ἐπὶ βόθρῳ.
 1035 μουνογενῇ δ' Ἐκάτην Περσηίδα μελίσσοιο,
 λείβων ἐκ δέπας σιμβλήια ἔργα μελισσέων.
 ἔνθα δ' ἐπεὶ κε θεῶν μεμνημένος ἰλάσσηαι,
 ἄψ ἀπὸ πυρκαϊῆς ἀναχάξω: μηδέ σε δοῦπος
 ἠὲ ποδῶν ὄρρησι μεταστρεφθῆναι ὀπίσσω,
 1040 ἠὲ κυνῶν ὑλακὴ, μὴ πως τὰ ἕκαστα κολούσας
 οὐδ' αὐτὸς κατὰ κόσμον ἐοῖς ἐτάροις πελάσσης.
 ἦρι δὲ μυδῆνας τόδε φάρμακον, ἣν ἄλοιφῃ
 γυμνωθεὶς φαίδρυνε τεὸν δέμας: ἐν δέ οἱ ἀλκῇ
 ἔσσειτ' ἀπειρεσίῃ μέγα τε σθένος, οὐδέ κε φαίης
 1045 ἀνδράσιν, ἀλλὰ θεοῖσιν ἰσαζέμεν ἀθανάτοισιν.
 πρὸς δὲ καὶ αὐτῷ δουρὶ σάκος πεπαλαγμένον ἔστω
 καὶ ξίφος. ἔνθ' οὐκ ἂν σε διατμήξειαν ἀκῶκαὶ
 γηγενέων ἀνδρῶν, οὐδ' ἄσχετος αἰσσουσα
 φλόξ ὀλοῶν τάυρων. τοῖός γε μὲν οὐκ ἐπὶ δηρὸν
 1050 ἔσσειαι, ἀλλ' αὐτῆμαρ: ὅμως σύγε μὴ ποτ' ἀέθλου
 χάξω. καὶ δέ τοι ἄλλο παρὲξ ὑποθήσομ' ὄνειρα.
 αὐτίκ' ἐπὶν κρατεροὺς ζεύξης βόας, ὧκα δὲ πᾶσαν
 χερσὶ καὶ ἠνορέῃ στυφελὴν διὰ νειὸν ἀρόσσης,
 οἱ δ' ἤδη κατὰ ὧλκας ἀνασταχύωσι Γίγαντες

1055 σπειρομένων ὄφις δνοφερὴν ἐπὶ βῶλον ὀδόντων,
 αἶ κεν ὀρινομένους πολέας νειοῖο δοκεύσης,
 λάθρη λαῶν ἄφες στιβαρώτερον· οἱ δ' ἂν ἐπ' αὐτῷ,
 καρχαλεοὶ κύνες ὥστε περὶ βρώμης, ὀλέκοιν
 ἀλλήλους· καὶ δ' αὐτὸς ἐπείγῃο δημοτῆτος
 1060 ἰθῦσαι. τὸ δὲ κῶας ἐς Ἑλλάδα τοῖό γ' ἔκῃ
 οἴσσαι ἐξ Αἴης τηλοῦ ποθί· νίσσεο δ' ἔμπης,
 ἧ φίλον, ἧ τοι ἔαδεν ἀφορμηθέντι νέεσθαι.
 ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη, καὶ σῖγα ποδῶν πάρος ὅσσε βαλοῦσα
 θεσπέσιον λιαροῖσι παρηίδα δάκρυσι δεῦν
 1065 μυρομένη, ὃ τ' ἔμελλεν ἀπόπροθι πολλὸν ἐοῖο
 πόντον ἐπιπλάγξασθαι· ἀνιρῶ δέ μιν ἄντην
 ἐξαῦτις μύθῳ προσεφώνεεν, εἵλε τε χειρὸς
 δεξιτερῆς· δὴ γάρ οἱ ἀπ' ὀφθαλμοῦς λίπεν αἰδῶς·
 'μνώεο δ', ἦν ἄρα δὴ ποθ' ὑπότροπος οἴκαδ' ἵκηαι,
 1070 οὔνομα Μηδείης· ὥς δ' αὐτ' ἐγὼ ἀμφὶς ἐόντος
 μνήσομαι. εἰπὲ δέ μοι πρόφρων τόδε, πῇ τοι ἔασιν
 δώματα, πῇ νῦν ἔνθεν ὑπεῖρ ἄλα νηὶ περήσεις·
 ἦ νύ που ἀφνειοῦ σχεδὸν ἵξαι Ὀρχομενοῖο,
 ἦε καὶ Αἰαίης νήσου πέλας· εἰπὲ δὲ κούρην,
 1075 ἦντινα τήνδ' ὀνόμηνας ἀριγνώτην γεγαυῖαν
 Πασιφάης, ἧ πατρὸς ὀμόγνιός ἐστιν ἐμεῖο.
 ὥς φάτο· τὸν δὲ καὶ αὐτὸν ὑπήιε δάκρυσι κούρης
 οὖλος Ἔρως, τοῖον δὲ παραβλήδην ἔπος ἡῦδα·
 'καὶ λὴν οὐ νύκτας οἴομαι, οὐδέ ποτ' ἤμαρ
 1080 σεῦ ἐπιλήσασθαι, προφυγῶν μόρον, εἰ ἐτεόν γε
 φεῦξομαι ἀσκηθῆς ἐς Ἀχαιίδα, μηδὲ τιν' ἄλλον
 Αἰήτης προβάλησι κακώτερον ἅμμιν ἄεθλον.
 εἰ δέ τοι ἡμετέρην ἐξίδμεναι εὔαδε πάτρην,
 ἐξερέω· μάλα γάρ με καὶ αὐτὸν θυμὸς ἀνώγει.
 1085 ἔστι τις αἰπεινοῖσι περιδρομος οὔρεσι γαῖα,
 πάμπαν εὐρρηνός τε καὶ εὐβοτός, ἔνθα Προμηθεὺς
 Ἰαπετιονίδης ἀγαθὸν τέκε Δευκαλίωνα,
 ὃς πρῶτος ποίησε πόλεις καὶ ἐδείματο νηοὺς
 ἀθανάτοις, πρῶτος δὲ καὶ ἀνθρώπων βασιλεύσεν.
 1090 Αἰμονίην δὴ τήνγε περικτίονες καλέουσιν.
 ἐν δ' αὐτῇ Ἰαωλκός, ἐμὴ πόλις, ἐν δὲ καὶ ἄλλαι
 πολλαὶ ναιετάουσιν, ἴν' οὐδέ περ οὔνομ' ἀκοῦσαι
 Αἰαίης νήσου· Μινύην γε μὲν ὀρμηθέντα,
 Αἰολίδην Μινύην ἔνθεν φάτις Ὀρχομενοῖο
 1095 δὴ ποτε Καδμείοισιν ὀμόριον ἄστν πολίσσαι.
 ἀλλὰ τίη τάδε τοι μεταμῶνια πάντ' ἀγορεύω,
 ἡμετέρους τε δόμους τηλεκλείτην τ' Ἀριάδνην,
 κούρην Μίνωος, τόπερ ἀγλαὸν οὔνομα κείνην

παρθενικὴν καλέεσκον ἐπήρατον, ἣν μ' ἐρεεῖνεις;
 1100 αἶθε γάρ, ὥς Θησῆι τότε ξυναρέσσατο Μίνωσ
 ἄμφ' αὐτῆς, ὥς ἄμμι πατὴρ τεδὸς ἄρθμιος εἶη.
 ὥς φάτο, μειλιχίοισι κατανήχων δάροισιν.
 τῆς δ' ἄλεγεινόταται κραδίην ἐρέθεσκον ἀνῖαι,
 καί μιν ἀκηχεμένη ἀδινῶ προσπτύξατο μύθος:
 1105 'Ελλάδι που τάδε καλά, συνημοσύνας ἀλεγύνειν.
 Αἰήτης δ' οὐ τοῖος ἐν ἀνδράσιν, οἷον ἔειπας
 Μίνω Πασιφάης πόσιν ἔμμεναι: οὐδ' Ἀριάδνη
 ἰσοῦμαι: τῷ μῆτι φιλοξενίην ἀγόρευε.
 ἀλλ' οἷον τύνη μὲν ἐμεῦ, ὅτ' Ἰωλκὸν ἵκηαι,
 1110 μνώεο: σείο δ' ἐγὼ καὶ ἐμῶν ἀέκητι τοκήων
 μνήσομαι. ἔλθοι δ' ἥμιν ἀπόπροθεν ἡέ τις ὄσσα,
 ἡέ τις ἄγγελος ὄρνις, ὅτ' ἐκλελάθοιο ἐμεῖο:
 ἢ αὐτήν με ταχεῖαι ὑπὲρ πόντοιο φέροιεν
 ἐνθένδ' εἰς Ἰωλκὸν ἀναρπάξασαι ἄελλαι,
 1115 ὄφρα σ', ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἐλεγχείας προφέρουσα,
 μνήσω ἐμῇ ἰότητι πεφυγμένον. αἶθε γὰρ εἶην
 ἀπροφάτως τότε σοῖσιν ἐφέστιος ἐν μεγάροισιν.'
 ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη, ἐλεεινὰ καταπροχέουσα παρειῶν
 δάκρυα: τὴν δ' ὄγε δῆθεν ὑποβλήδην προσέειπεν:
 1120 'δαίμονι, κενεὰς μὲν ἔα πλάζεσθαι ἀέλλας,
 ὥς δὲ καὶ ἄγγελον ὄρνιν, ἐπεὶ μεταμῶνια βάζεις.
 εἰ δέ κεν ἦθεα κεῖνα καὶ Ἑλλάδα γαῖαν ἵκηαι,
 τιμήεσσα γυναιξὶ καὶ ἀνδράσιν αἰδοίη τε
 ἔσσαι: οἱ δέ σε πάγχυ θεὸν ὥς πορσανέουσιν,
 1125 οὐνεκα τῶν μὲν παῖδες ὑπότροποι οἴκαδ' ἵκοντο
 σῇ βουλῇ, τῶν δ' αὖτε κασίγνητοὶ τε ἔται τε
 καὶ θαλεροὶ κακότητος ἄδην ἐσάωθεν ἀκοῖται.
 ἡμέτερον δὲ λέχος θαλάμοις ἐνὶ κουριδίοισιν
 πορσυνέεις: οὐδ' ἄμμε διακρινέει φιλότητος
 1130 ἄλλο, πάρος θάνατόν γε μεμορμένον ἀμφικαλύψαι.'
 ὥς φάτο: τῇ δ' ἐντοσθε κατεῖβετο θυμὸς ἀκοῦῃ,
 ἔμπης δ' ἔργ' αἰδήλα κατερρίγησεν ἰδέσθαι.
 σχετλίη: οὐ μὲν δηρὸν ἀπαρνήσεσθαι ἐμελλεν
 Ἑλλάδα ναιετάειν. ὥς γὰρ τότε μῆδετο Ἥρη,
 1135 ὄφρα κακὸν Πελὶῃ ἱερὴν ἐς Ἰωλκὸν ἵκοιτο
 Αἰαίη Μήδεια, λιποῦσ' ἅπο πατρίδα γαῖαν.
 ἦδη δ' ἀμφίπολοι μὲν ὀπιπεύουσαι ἅπωθεν
 σιγῇ ἀνιάζεσκον: ἐδεύετο δ' ἥματος ὥρη
 ἅψ οἴκονδε νέεσθαι ἐὴν μετὰ μητέρα κούρην.
 1140 ἡ δ' οὐπὼ κομιδῆς μιμνήσκετο, τέρπετο γάρ οἱ
 θυμὸς ὁμῶς μορφῇ τε καὶ αἰμυλίοισι λόγοισιν,
 εἰ μὴ ἄρ' Αἰσονίδης πεφυλαγμένος ὄψε περ ἠῦδα:

ῥῳ ἀποβλώσκειν, μὴ πρὶν φάος ἡελίοιο
δύη ὑποφθάμενον, καὶ τις τὰ ἕκαστα νοήσῃ
1145 ὁθνεῖων· αὖτις δ' ἀβολήσομεν ἐνθάδ' ἰόντες·
ὥς τῶγ' ἀλλήλων ἀγανοῖς ἐπὶ τόσσον ἔπεσιν
πεῖρθηεν· μετὰ δ' αὖτε διέτμαγεν. ἦτοι Ἰήσων
εἰς ἐτάρους καὶ νῆα κεχαρμένος ὥρτο νέεσθαι·
ἡ δὲ μετ' ἀμφιπόλους· αἱ δὲ σχεδὸν ἀντεβόλησαν
1150 πᾶσαι ὁμοῦ· τὰς δ' οὔτι περιπλομένας ἐνόησεν.
ψυχὴ γὰρ νεφέεσσι μεταχρονίη πεπότητο.
αὐτομάτοις δὲ πόδεσσι θοῆς ἐπεβήσατ' ἀπήνης,
καὶ ῥ' ἐτέρῃ μὲν χειρὶ λάβ' ἡνία, τῇ δ' ἄρ' ἰμάσθλην
δαίδαλῃν, οὐρῆας ἐλαυνέμεν· οἱ δὲ πόλινδε
1155 θῦνον ἐπειγόμενοι ποτὶ δώματα. τὴν δ' ἄρ' ἰοῦσαν
Χαλκίοπη περὶ παισὶν ἀκηχεμένη ἐρέεινεν·
ἡ δὲ παλιντροπήσιν ἀμήχανος οὔτε τι μῦθον
ἐκλυεν, οὔτ' αὐδοῖν ἀνειρομένη λελίητο.
ἔζε δ' ἐπὶ χθαμαλῷ σφέλαϊ κλιντῆρος ἔνερθεν
1160 λέχρις ἐρεισαμένη λαῖτ' ἐπὶ χειρὶ παρειήν·
ὕγρα δ' ἐνὶ βλεφάροις ἔχεν ὄμματα, πορφύρουσα
οἶον ἔῃ κακὸν ἔργον ἐπιξυνώσατο βουλῇ.
Αἰσυνίδης δ' ὅτε δὴ ἐτάροις ἐξαῦτις ἔμικτο
ἐν χώρῃ, ὅθι τούσγε καταπρολιπὼν ἐλίασθη,
1165 ὥρτ' ἰέναι σὺν τοῖσι, πιφασκόμενος τὰ ἕκαστα,
ἡρώων ἐς ὄμιλον· ὁμοῦ δ' ἐπὶ νῆα πέλασσαν.
οἱ δὲ μιν ἀμπαγάπαζον, ὅπως ἴδον, ἔκ τ' ἐρέοντο.
αὐτὰρ ὁ τοῖς πάντεσσι μετέννεπε δῆνεα κούρης,
δειῖξέ τε φάρμακον αἰνόν· ὁ δ' οἰόθεν οἷος ἐταίρων
1170 Ἴδας ἦστ' ἀπάνευθε δακῶν χόλον· οἱ δὲ δὴ ἄλλοι
γηθόσυνοι τῆμος μὲν, ἐπεὶ κνέφας ἔργαθε νυκτός,
εὐκῆλοι ἐμέλοντο περὶ σφίσιν. αὐτὰρ ἄμ' ἠοὶ
πέμπον ἐς Αἰήτην ἰέναι σπóρον αἰτήσοντας
ἄνδρε δύω, πρὸ μὲν αὐτὸν ἀρῆφιλον Τελαμῶνα,
1175 σὺν δὲ καὶ Αἰθαλίδην, νῖα κλυτὸν Ἑρμείαο.
βὰν δ' ἴμεν, οὐδ' ἀλίωσαν ὁδόν· πόρε δὲ σφιν ἰοῦσιν
κρείων Αἰήτης χαλεποὺς ἐς ἄεθλον ὁδόντας
Ἀονίοιο δράκοντος, ὃν Ὠγυγίῃ ἐνὶ Θήβῃ
Κάδμος, ὅτ' Εὐρώπῃ διζήμενος εἰσαφίκανε,
1180 πέφνεν Ἀρητιάδι κρήνῃ ἐπίουρον ἐόντα·
ἐνθα καὶ ἐννάσθη πομπῇ βοός, ἦν οἱ Ἀπόλλων
ᾤπασε μαντοσύνησι προηγῆταιραν ὁδοῖο.
τοὺς δὲ θεὰ Τριτωνὶς ὑπὲκ γενύων ἐλάσασα
Αἰήτῃ πόρε δῶρον ὁμῶς αὐτῷ τε φονῇ.
1185 καὶ ῥ' ὁ μὲν Ἀονίοισιν ἐνισπεύρας πεδίοισιν
Κάδμος Ἀγηνορίδης γαιηγενῇ εἷσατο λαόν,

Ἄρεος ἀμώοντος ὅσοι ὑπὸ δουρὶ λίποντο:
 τοὺς δὲ τότε Ἀιήτης ἔπορεν μετὰ νῆα φέρεσθαι
 προφρονέως, ἐπεὶ οὐ μιν ὀίσσατο πείρατ' ἀέθλου
 1190 ἐξάνυσειν, εἰ καὶ περ ἐπὶ ζυγὰ βουσί βάλοιτο.
 ἡέλιος μὲν ἄπωθεν ἐρεμνὴν δύετο γαῖαν
 ἐσπέριος, νεάτας ὑπὲρ ἄκριας Αἰθιοπῶν:
 νῦξ δ' ἵπποισιν ἔβαλλεν ἐπὶ ζυγά: τοὶ δὲ χαμεύνας
 ἔντυον ἥρωες παρὰ πείσμασιν. αὐτὰρ Ἴησων
 1195 αὐτίκ' ἐπεὶ ῥ' Ἑλίκης εὐφεγγέος ἀστέρες Ἄρκτου
 ἔκλιθεν, οὐρανόθεν δὲ πανεύκηνος γένετ' αἰθήρ,
 βῆ ῥ' ἐς ἐρημαίην, κλωπῆιος ἤνυτε τις φῶρ,
 σὺν πᾶσιν χρήεσσι: πρὸ γάρ τ' ἀλέγυνεν ἕκαστα
 ἡμάτιος: θῆλυν μὲν ὄιν, γάλα τ' ἔκτοθι ποιμήνης
 1200 Ἄργος ἰὼν ἤνεικε: τὰ δ' ἐξ αὐτῆς ἔλε νῆος.
 ἀλλ' ὅτε δὴ ἶδε χῶρον, ὅτις πάτου ἔκτοθεν ἦεν
 ἀνθρώπων, καθαρῇσιν ὑπεύδιος εἰαμενῆσιν,
 ἔνθ' ἦτοι ἀάμπρωτα λοέσσατο μὲν ποταμοῖο
 εὐαγέως θείοιο τέρεν δέμας: ἀμφὶ δὲ φᾶρος
 1205 ἔσσατο κυάνεον, τό ῥά οἱ πάρος ἐγγυάλιξεν
 Λημνιάς Ὑψιπύλη, ἀδινῆς μνημήιον εὐνῆς.
 πῆχυν δ' ἄρ' ἔπειτα πέδῳ ἐνὶ βόθρον ὀρύξας
 νήησε σχίζας, ἐπὶ δ' ἄρνειοῦ τάμε λαιμόν,
 αὐτόν τ' εὖ καθύπερθε τανύσσατο: δαΐε δὲ φिटρους
 1210 πῦρ ὑπένερθεν ἰεῖς, ἐπὶ δὲ μιγάδας χέε λοιβάς,
 Βριμῶ κικλήσκων Ἐκάτην ἐπαρωγὸν ἀέθλων.
 καὶ ῥ' ὁ μὲν ἀγκαλέσας πάλιν ἔστιχεν: ἡ δ' αἰούσα
 κευθμῶν ἐξ ὑπάτων δεινὴ θεὸς ἀντεβόλησεν
 ἱροῖς Αἰσονίδαο: πέριξ δέ μιν ἐστεφάνωντο
 1215 σμερδαλέοι δρυῖνοισι μετὰ πτόρθοισι δράκοντες.
 στράπτε δ' ἀπειρέσιον δαΐδων σέλας: ἀμφὶ δὲ τήνγε
 ὀξεῖῃ ὕλακῇ χθόνιοι κύνες ἐφθέγγοντο.
 πίσεια δ' ἔτρεμε πάντα κατὰ στίβον: αἱ δ' ὀλόλυξαν
 νύμφαι ἐλειονόμοι ποταμηίδες, αἱ περὶ κείνην
 1220 Φάσιδος εἰαμενὴν Ἀμαραντίου εἰλίσσονται.
 Αἰσονίδην δ' ἦτοι μὲν ἔλεν δέος, ἀλλὰ μιν οὐδ' ὥς
 ἐντροπαλιζόμενον πόδες ἔκφερον, ὄφρ' ἐτάροισιν
 μίκτο κιών: ἦδη δὲ φόως νιφόεντος ὑπερθεν
 Καυκάσου ἠριγενῆς Ἥως βάλεν ἀντέλλουσα.
 1225 καὶ τότε ἄρ' Αἰήτης περὶ μὲν στήθεσσιν ἔεστο
 θώρηκα στάδιον, τὸν οἱ πόρεν ἐξεναρίζας
 σφωιτέραις Φλεγραῖον Ἄρης ὑπὸ χερσὶ Μίμαντα:
 χρυσεῖν δ' ἐπὶ κρατὶ κόρυν θέτο τετραφάληρον,
 λαμπομένην οἶόν τε περίτροχον ἔπλετο φέγγος
 1230 ἡελίου, ὅτε πρῶτον ἀνέρχεται Ὠκεανοῖο.

ἂν δὲ πολὺρρινον νῶμα σάκος, ἂν δὲ καὶ ἔγχος
δεινόν, ἀμαιομάκετον· τὸ μὲν οὐδέ τις ἄλλος ὑπέστη
ἀνδρῶν ἡρώων, ὅτε κάλλιπον Ἡρακλεῖα
τῆλε παρέξ, ὃ κεν οἶος ἐναντίβιον πολέμιζεν.

1235 τῷ δὲ καὶ ὠκυπόδων ἵππων εὐπηγέα δίφρον
ἔσχε πέλας Φαέθων ἐπιβήμεναι· ἂν δὲ καὶ αὐτὸς
βῆσατο, ῥυτῆρας δὲ χεροῖν ἔχεν· ἐκ δὲ πόλῃος
ἦλασεν εὐρεῖαν κατ' ἀμαξιτόν, ὥς κεν ἀέθλω
παρσταίῃ· σὺν δὲ σφιν ἀπείριτος ἔσσυτο λαός.

1240 οἶος δ' Ἴσθμιον εἴσι Ποσειδάων ἐς ἀγῶνα
ἄρμασιν ἐμβεβαώς, ἣ Ταίναρον, ἣ ὄγε Λέρνης
ὔδωρ, ἣ δὲ κατ' ἄλσος Ὑαντίου Ὀγχηστοῖο,
καὶ τε Καλαύρειαν μετὰ δῆθ' ἅμα νίσσεται ἵπποις,
πέτρην θ' Αἰμονίην, ἣ δενδρήεντα Γεραιστόν·

1245 τοῖος ἄρ' Αἰήτης Κόλχων ἀγὸς ἦεν ιδέσθαι.
τόφρα δὲ Μηδείης ὑποθημοσύνησιν Ἰήσων
φάρμακα μυδῆνας ἡμὲν σάκος ἀμφεπάλυνεν
ἠδὲ δόρυ βριαρόν, περὶ δὲ ξίφος· ἀμφὶ δ' ἑταῖροι
πεῖρησαν τευχέων βεβημένοι, οὐδ' ἐδύναντο

1250 κεῖνο δόρυ γνάμψαι τυτθὸν γέ περ, ἀλλὰ μάλ' αὐτῶς
ἀαγὲς κρατερῇσιν ἐνεσκλήκει παλάμησιν.

αὐτὰρ ὁ τοῖς ἅμοτον κοτέων Ἀφαρήιος Ἴδας
κόνψε παρ' οὐρίαχον μεγάλῳ ξίφει· ἄλτο δ' ἀκωκῇ
ῥαίστηρ ἄκμονος ὥστε, παλιντυπές· οἱ δ' ὁμάδῃσαν

1255 γηθόσυνοι ἦρωες ἐπ' ἐλπωρῇσιν ἀέθλου.

καὶ δ' αὐτὸς μετέπειτα παλύνετο· δῦ δέ μιν ἀλκῇ
σμερδαλέῃ ἄφατός τε καὶ ἄτρομος· αἱ δ' ἐκάτερθεν
χεῖρες ἐπερρώσαντο περὶ σθένει σφριγώσσαι.

ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἀρήιος ἵππος ἐελδόμενος πολέμοιο

1260 σκαρθμῷ ἐπιχρεμέθων κρούει πέδον, αὐτὰρ ὑπερθεν
κυδιῶν ὀρθοῖσιν ἐπ' οὔασιν αὐχέν' αἶρει·

τοῖος ἄρ' Αἰσονίδης ἐπαγαίετο κάρτεϊ γυῖων.

πολλὰ δ' ἄρ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα μετάρσιον ἵχνος ἔπαλλεν,
ἀσπίδα χαλκεῖν μελίνην τ' ἐν χερσὶ τινάσσων.

1265 φαίης κε ζοφεροῖο κατ' αἰθέρος αἴσσουσαν
χειμερίην στεροπὴν θαμινὸν μεταπαιφάσσεσθαι
ἐκ νεφέων, ὅτ' ἔπειτα μελάντατον ὄμβρον ἄγωνται.

καὶ τότε ἔπειτ' οὐ δηρὸν ἔτι σχήσεσθαι ἀέθλων
μέλλον· ἀτὰρ κληῖσιν ἐπισχερῶ ἰδρυνθέντες

1270 ῥίμφα μάλ' ἐς πεδῖον τὸ Ἀρήιον ἠπείγοντο.

τόσσον δὲ προτέρῳ πέλεν ἄστεος ἀντιπέρηθεν,
ὅσσον τ' ἐκ βαλβίδος ἐπήβολος ἄρματι νύσσα
γίγνεται, ὅππότε ἄεθλα καταφθιμένοιο ἄνακτος
κηδεμόνες πεζοῖσι καὶ ἱππῆεσσι τίθενται.

1275 τέτμον δ' Αἰήτην τε καὶ ἄλλων ἔθνεα Κόλχων,
τοὺς μὲν Καυκασίοισιν ἐφεσταότας σκοπέλοισιν,
τὸν δ' αὐτοῦ παρὰ χεῖλος ἐλισσόμενον ποταμοῖο.
Αἰσονίδης δ', ὅτε δὴ πρυμνήσια δῆσαν ἑταῖροι,
δὴ ῥα τότε ξὺν δουρὶ καὶ ἀσπίδι βαῖν' ἐς ἄεθλον,
1280 νηὸς ἀποπροθορών· ἄμυδις δ' ἔλε παμφανόωσαν
χαλκεῖν πῆληκα θοῶν ἔμπλειον ὀδόντων
καὶ ξίφος ἀμφ' ὤμοις, γυμνὸς δέμας, ἄλλα μὲν Ἄρει
εἵκελος, ἄλλα δέ που χρυσαόρῳ Ἀπόλλωνι.
παπτήνας δ' ἀνὰ νειὸν ἶδε ζυγὰ χάλκεα ταύρων
1285 αὐτόγυνὸν τ' ἐπὶ τοῖς στιβαροῦ ἀδάμαντος ἄροτρον.
χρίμψε δ' ἔπειτα κιών, παρὰ δ' ὄβριμον ἔγχος ἔπηξεν
ὀρθὸν ἐπ' οὐριάχῳ, κυνέην δ' ἀποκάτθετ' ἐρείσας.
βῆ δ' αὐτῇ προτέρωσε σὺν ἀσπίδι νήριτα ταύρων
ἵχνια μαστεύων· οἱ δ' ἐκποθεν ἀφράστοιο
1290 κευθμῶνος χθονίου, ἵνα τέ σφισιν ἔσκε βόαυλα
καρτερὰ λιγνύοντι πέριξ εἰλυμένα καπνῶ,
ἄμφω ὁμοῦ προγένοντο πυρὸς σέλας ἀμπνεῖοντες.
ἔδδειςαν δ' ἥρωες, ὅπως ἶδον. αὐτὰρ ὁ τούσγε,
εὖ διαβάς, ἐπιόντας, ἃ τε σπιλὰς εἰν ἀλὶ πέτρῃ
1295 μῖμνει ἀπειρεσίησι δονεύμενα κύματ' ἀέλλαις.
πρόσθε δέ οἱ σάκος ἔσχεν ἐναντίον· οἱ δέ μιν ἄμφω
μυκηθμῷ κρατεροῖσιν ἐνέπληξαν κεράεσσιν·
οὐδ' ἄρα μιν τυτθὸν περ ἀνώχλισαν ἀντιώοντες.
ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἐνὶ τρητοῖσιν ἐύρρινοι χοάνοισιν
1300 φῦσαι χαλκῆων ὅτ' ἐμὲν τ' ἀναμαρμαίρουσιν,
πῦρ ὀλοὸν πιμπρᾶσαι, ὅτ' αὖ λήγουσιν ἀντμῆς,
δεινὸς δ' ἐξ αὐτοῦ πέλεται βρόμος, ὅππότ' αἶζη
νειόθεν· ὧς ἄρα τώγε θοὴν φλόγα φυσιόωντες
ἐκ στομάτων ὁμάδευν, τὸν δ' ἄμφεπε δῆιον αἶθος
1305 βάλλον ἃ τε στεροπή· κούρης δέ ἐ φάρμακ' ἔρυτο.
καὶ ῥ' ὄγε δεξιτεροῖο βοδὸς κέρας ἄκρον ἐρύσας
εἵλκεν ἐπικρατέως παντὶ σθένει, ὄφρα πελάσση
ζεῦγλῃ χαλκεῖν, τὸν δ' ἐν χθονὶ κάββαλεν ὀκλάξ,
ῥίμφα ποδὶ κρούσας πόδα χάλκεον. ὧς δὲ καὶ ἄλλον
1310 σφῆλιν γνῦξ ἐπιόντα, μιῇ βεβολημένον ὀρμῇ.
εὐρὺ δ' ἀποπροβαλὼν χαμάδις σάκος, ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα
τῇ καὶ τῇ βεβαῶς ἄμφω ἔχε πεπτηῶτας
γούνασιν ἐν προτέροισι, διὰ φλογὸς εἴθαρ ἔλυσθεις.
θαύμασε δ' Αἰήτης σθένος ἀνέρος. οἱ δ' ἄρα τείως
1315 Τυνδαρίδαι — δὴ γάρ σφι πάλαι προπεφραδμένον ἦεν —
ἀγχίμολον ζυγὰ οἱ πεδόθεν δόσαν ἀμφιβαλέσθαι.
αὐτὰρ ὁ εὖ ἐνέδησε λόφους· μεσσηγὺ δ' αἰείρας
χάλκεον ἱστοβοῆα, θοῇ συνάρασε κορώνη

ζεύγληθεν. καὶ τῷ μὲν ὑπὲκ πυρὸς ἄψ ἐπὶ νῆα
1320 χαζέσθην. ὁ δ' ἄρ' αὖτις ἐλὼν σάκος ἔνθετο νώτῳ
ἐξόπιθεν, καὶ γέντο θεῶν ἔμπλειον ὁδόντων
πήληκα βριαρὴν δόρυ τ' ἄσχετον, ᾧ π' ὑπὸ μέσσης
ἐργατίνης ὥς τις τε Πελασγίδι νύσσεν ἀκαΐνη
οὐτάζων λαγόνας· μάλα δ' ἔμπεδον εὖ ἀραρυῖαν
1325 τυκτὴν ἐξ ἀδάμαντος ἐπιθύνεσκεν ἐχέτλην.
οἱ δ' εἴως μὲν δὴ περιώσια θυμαίνεσκον,
λάβρον ἐπιπνεῖοντε πυρὸς σέλας· ὥρτο δ' αὐτμὴ
ἥυτε βυκτάων ἀνέμων βρόμος, οὓς τε μάλιστα
δειδιότες μέγα λαῖφος ἀλίπλοοι ἐστεΐλαντο.
1330 δηρὸν δ' οὐ μετέπειτα κελευόμενοι ὑπὸ δουρὶ
ἦσαν· ὀκριόεσσα δ' ἐρείκετο νειὸς ὀπίσσω,
σχιζομένη ταύρων τε βίη κρατερῷ τ' ἀροτῆρι.
δεινὸν δ' ἐσμαράγευν ἄμυδις κατὰ ὦλκας ἀρότρου
βῶλακες ἀγνύμεναι ἀνδραχθές· εἵπετο δ' αὐτὸς
1335 λαῖον ἐπὶ στιβαρῷ πῖσας ποδὶ· τῆλε δ' ἐοῖο
βάλλεν ἀρηρομένην αἰεὶ κατὰ βῶλον ὁδόντας
ἐντροπαλιζόμενος, μὴ οἱ πάρος ἀντιάσειεν
γηγενέων ἀνδρῶν ὀλοὸς στάχys· οἱ δ' ἄρ' ἐπιπρὸ
χαλκείης χηλῆσιν ἐρειδόμενοι πονέοντο.
1340 ἦμος δὲ τρίτατον λάχος ἤματος ἀνομένιοι
λείπεται ἐξ ἡοῦς, καλέουσι δὲ κεκμηῶτες
ἐργατῖναι γλυκερόν σφιν ἄφαρ βουλυτὸν ἰκέσθαι,
τῆμος ἀρήροτο νειὸς ὑπ' ἀκαμάτῳ ἀροτῆρι,
τετράγυός περ ἐοῦσα· βοῶν τ' ἀπελύετ' ἄροτρα.
1345 καὶ τοὺς μὲν πεδίονδε διεπτοίησε φέβεσθαι·
αὐτὰρ ὁ ἄψ ἐπὶ νῆα πάλιν κίεν, ὄφρ' ἔτι κεινὰς
γηγενέων ἀνδρῶν ἴδεν αὖλακας· ἀμφὶ δ' ἑταῖροι
θάρσυνον μῦθοισιν. ὁ δ' ἐκ ποταμοῖο ῥοάων
αὐτῇ ἀφυσσάμενος κινέῃ σβέσεν ὕδατι δῖψαν·
1350 γνάμψε δὲ γούνατ' ἐλαφρά, μέγαν δ' ἐμπλήσατο θυμὸν
ἀλκῆς, μαιμώνων συὶ εἵκελος, ὅς ῥά τ' ὁδόντας
θήγει θηρευτῆσιν ἐπ' ἀνδράσιν, ἀμφὶ δὲ πολλὸς
ἄφρὸς ἀπὸ στόματος χαμάδις ῥεῖ χωομένιοι.
οἱ δ' ἤδη κατὰ πᾶσαν ἀνασταχύεσκον ἄρουραν
1355 γηγενέες· φρίξεν δὲ περὶ στιβαροῖς σακέεσσιν
δούρασί τ' ἀμφιγύοις κορύθεσσί τε λαμπομένησιν
Ἄρηος τέμενος φθισιμβρότου· ἵκετο δ' αἰγλή
νειόθεν Οὐλυμπόνδε δι' ἠέρος ἀστράπτουσα.
ὥς δ' ὁπότε ἐς γαῖαν πολέος νιφετοῖο πεσόντος
1360 ἄψ ἀπὸ χειμερίας νεφέλας ἐκέσασσαν ἄελλαι
λυγαίῃ ὑπὸ νυκτί, τὰ δ' ἀθρόα πάντ' ἐφάνθη
τεῖρα λαμπετόωντα διὰ κνέφας· ὧς ἄρα τοίγε

λάμπον ἀναλδήσκοντες ὑπὲρ χθονός· αὐτὰρ Ἰήσων
μνήσατο Μηδείης πολυκερδέος ἐννεσιάνω,
1365 λάζετο δ' ἐκ πεδίοιο μέγαν περιηγέα πέτρον,
δεινὸν Ἐνυαλίου σόλον Ἄρεος· οὐ κέ μιν ἄνδρες
αἰζηοὶ πίσυρες γαίης ἅπο τυτθὸν ἄειραν.
τόν ῥ' ἀνὰ χεῖρα λαβὼν μάλα τηλόθεν ἔμβαλε μέσσοις
αἶξας· αὐτὸς δ' ὑφ' ἐὸν σάκος ἔζετο λάθρη
1370 θαρσαλέως. Κόλχοι δὲ μέγ' ἴαχον, ὥς ὅτε πόντος
ἴαχεν ὀξείησιν ἐπιβρομέων σπιλάδεσσιν·
τὸν δ' ἔλεν ἀμφασίῃ ῥιπῇ στιβαροῖο σόλοιο
Αἰήτην· οἱ δ' ὥστε θοοὶ κύνες ἀμφιθορόντες
ἀλλήλους βρυχηδὸν ἐδήιον· οἱ δ' ἐπὶ γαῖαν
1375 μητέρα πῖπτον ἐοῖς ὑπὸ δούρασιν, ἥ τε πεῦκαι
ἦ δρύες, ἅς τ' ἀνέμοιο κατὰϊκες δονέουσιν.
οἷος δ' οὐρανόθεν πυρόεις ἀναπάλλεται ἀστήρ
ὀλκὸν ὑπαυγάζων, τέρας ἀνδράσιν, οἳ μιν ἴδωντο
μαρμαρυγῇ σκοτίοιο δι' ἡέρος αἶξαντα·
1380 τοῖος ἄρ' Αἴσονος υἱὸς ἐπέσσυτο γηγενέεσσιν,
γυμνὸν δ' ἐκ κολεοῖο φέρε ξίφος, οὔτα δὲ μίγδην
ἀμώων, πολέας μὲν ἔτ' ἐς νηδὺν λαγόνας τε
ἡμίσεας ἀνέχοντας ἐς ἡέρα· τοὺς δὲ καὶ ἄχρις
ὦμων τελλομένους· τοὺς δὲ νέον ἐστηῶτας,
1385 τοὺς δ' ἤδη καὶ ποσσὶν ἐπειγομένους ἐς ἄρηα.
ὥς δ' ὁπότε ἀμφ' οὖροισιν ἐγειρομένου πολέμοιο,
δείσας γειομόρος, μὴ οἱ προτάμωνται ἀρούρας,
ἄρπην εὐκαμπῇ νεοθηγέα χερσὶ μεμαρπῶς
ὦμὸν ἐπισπεύδων κείρει στάχυν, οὐδὲ βολῆσιν
1390 μίμνει ἐς ὥραϊν τερσήμεναι ἡελίοιο·
ὥς τότε γηγενέων κεῖρε στάχυν· αἵματι δ' ὀλκοὶ
ἥ τε κρηναῖαι ἀμάραι πλήθοντο ῥοῆσιν.
πῖπτον δ', οἱ μὲν ὁδὰξ τετρηχότα βῶλον ὁδοῦσιν
λαζόμενοι πρηνεῖς, οἱ δ' ἔμπαλιν, οἱ δ' ἐπ' ἀγοστῷ
1395 καὶ πλευροῖς, κήτεσσι δομὴν ἀτάλαντοι ἰδέσθαι.
πολλοὶ δ' οὐτάμενοι, πρὶν ὑπὸ χθονὸς ἵχνος ἀεῖραι,
ὅσσον ἄνω προὔτυψαν ἐς ἡέρα, τόσσον ἔραζε
βριθόμενοι πλαδαροῖσι καρῆασιν ἠρήρειντο.
ἔρνεα που τοίως, Διὸς ἄσπετον ὀμβρήσαντος,
1400 φυταλιῇ νεόθρεπτα κατημύουσιν ἔραζε
κλασθέντα ρίζηθεν, ἀλωήων πόνος ἀνδρῶν·
τὸν δὲ κατφεῖη τε καὶ οὐλοδὸν ἄλγος ἰκάνει
κλήρου σημαντῆρα φυτοτρόφον· ὥς τότε ἄνακτος
Αἰήταο βαρεῖαι ὑπὸ φρένας ἦλθον ἀνῖαι.
1405 ἦγε δ' ἐς πτολίεθρον ὑπότροπος ἄμμιγα Κόλχοις,
πορφύρων, ἧ κέ σφι θοώτερον ἀντιόωτο.

ἦμαρ ἔδν, καὶ τῷ τετελεσμένος ἦεν ἄεθλος.

BOOK IV.

αὐτὴ νῦν κάματόν γε, θεά, καὶ δήνεα κούρης
Κολχίδος ἔννεπε, Μοῦσα, Διὸς τέκος. ἥ γὰρ ἔμοιγε
ἀμφασίῃ νόος ἔνδον ἐλίσσεται ὀρμαίνοντι,
ἣ ἔμεν ἄτης πῆμα δυσίμερον, ἣ τόγ' ἐνίσπω
5 φύζαν ἀεικελίην, ἣ κάλλιπεν ἔθνεα Κόλχων.
ἦτοι ὁ μὲν δῆμοιο μετ' ἀνδράσιν, ὅσσοι ἄριστοι,
παννύχιος δόλον αἰπὺν ἐπὶ σφίσι μητιάσκειν
οἷσιν ἐνὶ μεγάροις, στυγερῶ ἐπὶ θυμὸν ἀέθλω
Αἰήτης ἄμοτον κεχολωμένος· οὐδ' ὄγε πάμπαν
10 θυγατέρων τάδε νόσφιν ἐὼν τελέεσθαι ἐώλπει.
τῇ δ' ἀλεγεινότατον κραδίη φόβον ἔμβαλεν Ἥρη·
τρέσσεν δ', ἥυτε τις κούφη κεμάς, ἦν τε βαθείης
τάρφεςιν ἐν ξυλόχοιο κυνῶν ἐφόβησεν ὁμοκλή.
αὐτίκα γὰρ νημερτὲς οἴσσατο, μὴ μιν ἀρωγὴν
15 ληθέμεν, αἶψα δὲ πᾶσαν ἀναπλήσειν κακότητα.
τάρβει δ' ἀμφιπόλους ἐπίστορας· ἐν δέ οἱ ὅσσε
πλήτο πυρός, δεινὸν δὲ περιβρομέσκον ἀκουαί.
πυκνὰ δὲ λευκανίης ἐπεμάσσαστο, πυκνὰ δὲ κουριξ
ἐλκομένη πλοκάμους γοερῇ βρυχήσας· ἀνίη.
20 καὶ νῦ κεν αὐτοῦ τῆμος ὑπὲρ μόρον ὄλετο κούρη,
φάρμακα πασσαμένη, Ἥρης δ' ἀλίωσε μενοινάς,
εἰ μὴ μιν Φρίξιοι θεὰ σὺν παισὶ φέβεσθαι
ᾤρσεν ἀτυζομένην· πτερόεις δέ οἱ ἐν φρεσὶ θυμὸς
ιάνθη· μετὰ δ' ἤγε παλίσσυντος ἀθρόα κόλπων
25 φάρμακα πάντ' ἄμυδις κατεχεύατο φωριαμοῖο.
κύσσε δ' ἐόν τε λέχος καὶ δικλίδας ἀμφοτέρωθεν
σταθμούς, καὶ τοίχων ἐπαφήσατο, χερσὶ τε μακρὸν
ῥηξαμένη πλόκαμον, θαλάμῳ μνημῆια μητρὶ
κάλλιπε παρθενίης, ἀδινῇ δ' ὀλοφύρατο φωνῇ·
30 'τόνδε τοι ἀντ' ἐμέθεν ταναὸν πλόκον εἴμι λιποῦσα,
μητὲρ ἐμή· χαίροις δὲ καὶ ἄνδιχα πολλὸν ἰούση·
χαίροις Χαλκιόπη, καὶ πᾶς δόμος. αἶθε σε πόντος,
ξεῖνε, διέρραισεν, πρὶν Κολχίδα γαῖαν ἰκέσθαι.'
ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη· βλεφάρων δὲ κατ' ἀθρόα δάκρυα χεῦεν.
35 οἷη δ' ἀφνειοῖο διειλυσθεῖσα δόμοιο
ληιάς, ἦν τε νέον πάτρης ἀπενόσφισεν αἶσα,
οὐδέ νύ πω μογεροῖο πεπεύρηται καμάτοιο,
ἀλλ' ἔτ' ἀηθέσσουσα δύης καὶ δούλια ἔργα
εἴσιν ἀτυζομένη χαλεπὰς ὑπὸ χειρὸς ἀνάσσης·
40 τοίη ἄρ' ἡμερόεσσα δόμων ἐξέσσυτο κούρη.
τῇ δὲ καὶ αὐτόματοι θυρῶν ἰπόειζαν ὀχῆες,

ὠκείαις ἄγορροι ἀναθρώσκοντες αἰοδαῖς.
γυμνοῖσιν δὲ πόδεσσιν ἀνὰ στεινὰς θέεν οἴμους,
λαιῇ μὲν χερὶ πέπλον ἐπ' ὀφρύσιν ἀμφὶ μέτωπα
45 στελαιμένη καὶ καλὰ παρήια, δεξιτερῇ δὲ
ἄκρην ὑψόθι πέζαν ἀερτάζουσα χιτῶνος.
καρπαλίμως δ' αἰδήλον ἀνὰ στίβον ἔκτοθι πύργων
ἄστεος εὐρυχόριοι φόβῳ ἵκετ': οὐδέ τις ἔγνω
τήνγε φυλακτῆρων, λάθε δὲ σφεας ὀρμηθεῖσα.
50 ἔνθεν ἴμεν νηόνδε μάλ' ἐφράσατ': οὐ γὰρ αἰδρις
ἦεν ὁδῶν, θαμὰ καὶ πρὶν ἄλωμένη ἀμφὶ τε νεκρούς,
ἀμφὶ τε δυσπαλέας ρίζας χθονός, οἷα γυναικες
φαρμακίδες: τρομερῷ δ' ὑπὸ δείματι πάλλετο θυμός.
τὴν δὲ νέον Τιτηνὶς ἀνερχομένη περάτῃην
55 φοιταλέην ἐσιδοῦσα θεὰ ἐπεχήρατο Μῆνη
ἀρπαλέως, καὶ τοῖα μετὰ φρεσὶν ἦσιν ἔειπεν:
'οὐκ ἄρ' ἐγὼ μούνη μετὰ Λάτμιον ἄντρον ἀλύσκω,
οὐδ' οἷη καλῷ περιδαίομαι Ἐνδυμίωνι:
ἦ θαμὰ δὴ καὶ σεῖο κίον δολίησιν αἰοδαῖς,
60 μνησαμένη φιλότητος, ἵνα σκοτίῃ ἐνὶ νυκτὶ
φαρμάσσης εὐκηλος, ἅ τοι φίλα ἔργα τέτυκται.
νῦν δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ δῆθεν ὁμοίης ἔμμορες ἄτης:
δῶκε δ' ἀνιηρόν τοι Ἰήσωνα πῆμα γενέσθαι
δαίμων ἀλγινόεις. ἀλλ' ἔρχεο, τέτλαθι δ' ἐμπης,
65 καὶ πινυτὴ περ ἐοῦσα, πολύστονον ἄλγος ἀείρειν.'
ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη: τὴν δ' αἶψα πόδες φέρον ἐγκονέουσιν.
ἀσπασίως δ' ὄχθησιν ἐπήερθη ποταμοῖο,
ἀντιπέρην λεύσσουσα πυρὸς σέλας, ὃ ρά τ' ἀέθλου
παννύχιοι ἥρωες εὐφροσύνησιν ἔδαιον.
70 ὀξεῖη δῆπτετα διὰ κνέφας ὄρθια φωνῇ
ὀπλότατον Φρίξοιο περαιόθεν ἦπυε παίδων,
φρόντιν: ὁ δὲ ξὺν ἐοῖσι κασιγνήτοις ὅπα κούρης
αὐτῷ τ' Αἰσονίδῃ τεκμήρατο: σῖγα δ' ἐταῖροι
θάμβεον, εὖτ' ἐνόησαν ὃ δὴ καὶ ἐτήτυμον ἦεν.
75 τρὶς μὲν ἀνήυσεν, τρὶς δ' ὀτρύνοντος ὁμίλου
Φρόντις ἀμοιβήδην ἀντίαχεν: οἱ δ' ἄρα τείως
ἥρωες μετὰ τήνγε θοοῖς ἐλάασκον ἐρετμοῖς.
οὐπω πείσματα νηὸς ἐπ' ἠπείροιο περαίης
βάλλον, ὁ δὲ κραιπνοὺς χέρσῳ πόδας ἦκεν Ἰήσων
80 ὑψοῦ ἀπ' ἱκριόφιν: μετὰ δὲ Φρόντις τε καὶ Ἄργος,
υἷε δ'ὺ Φρίξου, χαμάδις θόρον: ἡ δ' ἄρα τοῦσγε
γούνων ἀμφοτέρῃσι περισχομένη προσέειπεν:
'ἔκ με, φίλοι, ρύσασθε δυσάμμορον, ὥς δὲ καὶ αὐτοὺς
ὕμέας Αἰήταο, πρὸ γάρ τ' ἀναφανδὰ τέτυκται
85 πάντα μάλ', οὐδέ τι μῆχος ἰκάνεται. ἀλλ' ἐπὶ νηὶ

φεύγωμεν, πρὶν τόνδε θεῶν ἐπιβήμεναι ἵππων.
δώσω δὲ χρύσειον ἐγὼ δέρος, εὐνήσασα
φρουρὸν ὄφιν· τὴν δὲ θεοὺς ἐνὶ σοῖσιν ἐταίροις,
ξείνῃ, τεῶν μύθων ἐπίστορας, οὓς μοι ὑπέστης,
90 ποίησαι· μὴδ' ἔνθεν ἐκαστέρῳ ὀρμηθεῖσαν
χῆται κηδεμόνων ὀνοτὴν καὶ ἀεικέα θεῖς.
Ἴσκεν ἀκηχεμένη· μέγα δὲ φρένες Αἰσονίδαο
γῆθεον· αἶψα δέ μιν περὶ γούνασι πεπτηυῖαν
ἦκ' ἀναειρόμενος προσπύξατο, θάρσυνέν τε·
95 'δαιμονίη, Ζεὺς αὐτὸς Ὀλύμπιος ὄρκιος ἔστω,
Ἥρῃ τε Ζυγίῃ, Διὸς εὐνέτις, ἣ μὲν ἐμοῖσιν
κουριδίην σε δόμοισιν ἐνιστήσεσθαι ἄκοιτιν,
εὖτ' ἂν ἐς Ἑλλάδα γαῖαν ἰκώμεθα νοστήσαντες.
ὣς ἠῦδα, καὶ χεῖρα παρασχεδὼν ἥραρε χειρὶ
100 δεξιτερῇν· ἣ δὲ σφιν ἐς ἱερὸν ἄλσος ἀνώγει
νῆα θοὴν ἐλάαν αὐτοσχεδόν, ὄφρ' ἔτι νύκτωρ
κῶας ἐλόντες ἄγοιντο παρὲκ νόον Αἰήταο.
ἐνθ' ἔπος ἡδὲ καὶ ἔργον ὁμοῦ πέλεν ἐσσυμένοισιν.
εἰς γάρ μιν βήσαντες, ἀπὸ χθονὸς αὐτίκ' ἔωσαν
105 νῆα· πολὺς δ' ὀρυμαγδὸς ἐπειγομένων ἐλάτησιν
ἦεν ἀριστήων· ἣ δ' ἔμπαλιν αἰίσουσα
γαίῃ χειρὰς ἔτεινεν ἀμήχανος· αὐτὰρ Ἰήσων
θάρσυνέν τ' ἐπέεσσι, καὶ ἴσχανεν ἀσχαλώωσαν.
ἦμος δ' ἄνδρες ὕπνον ἀπ' ὀφθαλμῶν ἐβάλοντο
110 ἀγρόται, οἳ τε κύνεσσι πεποιθότες οὔποτε νύκτα
ἄγχαυρον κνώσσουσιν, ἀλευάμενοι φάος ἡοῦς,
μὴ πρὶν ἀμαλδύνη θηρῶν στίβον ἡδὲ καὶ ὁδμήν
θηρείην λευκῆσιν ἐνισκίμψασα βολῆσιν·
τῆμος ἄρ' Αἰσονίδης κούρη τ' ἀπὸ νηὸς ἔβησαν
115 ποιήεντ' ἀνὰ χῶρον, ἵνα κριοῦ καλέονται
εὐναί, ὅθι πρῶτον κεκμηότα γούνατ' ἔκαμψεν,
νώτοισιν φορέων Μινυήιον υἱ' Ἀθάμαντος.
ἐγγύθι δ' αἰθαλόεντα πέλεν βωμοῖο θέμεθλα,
ὃν ρά ποτ' Αἰολίδης Διὶ Φυζίῳ εἶσατο Φρίξος,
120 ῥέζων κεῖνο τέρας παγχρύσειον, ὥς οἱ ἔειπεν
Ἑρμείας πρόφρων ξυμβλήμενος· ἐνθ' ἄρα τούσγε
Ἄργου φραδομοσύνησιν ἀριστῆες μεθέηκαν.
τῷ δὲ δι' ἀτραπιτοῖο μεθ' ἱερὸν ἄλσος ἵκοντο,
φηγὸν ἀπειρεσίην διζημένῳ, ἧ ἔπι κῶας
125 βέβλητο, νεφέλῃ ἐναλίγκιον, ἧ τ' ἀνιόντος
ἡελίου φλογερῇσιν ἐρεῦθεται ἀκτίνεσσιν.
αὐτὰρ ὁ ἀντικρὺ περιμήκεα τείνετο δειρὴν
ὀξὺς ἀύπνοισιν προῖδὼν ὄφιν ὀφθαλμοῖσιν
νισσομένους, ροίζει δὲ πελώριον· ἀμφὶ δὲ μακραὶ

130 ἡῖόνες ποταμοῖο καὶ ἄσπετον ἴαχεν ἄλσος.
 ἔκλυον οἳ καὶ πολλὸν ἐκάς Τιτηνίδος Αἴης
 Κολχίδα γῆν ἐνέμοντο παρὰ προχοῇσι Αὐκοιο,
 ὃς τ' ἄποκιδνάμενος ποταμοῦ κελάδοντος Ἀράξεω
 Φάσιδι συμφέρεται ἱερὸν ῥόον· οἱ δὲ συνάμφω
 135 Καυκασίην ἄλαδ' εἰς ἓν ἐλαυνόμενοι προχέουσιν.
 δείματι δ' ἐξέγροντο λεχωίδες, ἀμφὶ δὲ παισὶν
 νηπιάχοις, οἳ τέ σφιν ὑπ' ἀγκαλίδεσσιν ἴανον,
 ῥοίζῳ παλλομένοις χειῖρας βάλλον ἀσχαλῶσαι.
 ὥς δ' ὅτε τυφομένης ὕλης ὕπερ αἰθαλόεσσαι
 140 καπνοῖο στροφάλιγγες ἀπείριτοι εἰλίσσονται,
 ἄλλη δ' αἶψ' ἐτέρῃ ἐπιτέλλεται αἰὲν ἐπιπρὸ
 νειόθεν εἰλίγγοισιν ἐπήρορος ἐξανιοῦσα·
 ὧς τότε κεῖνο πέλωρον ἀπειρεσίας ἐλέλιξεν
 ῥυμβόνας ἀζαλέησιν ἐπηρεφῆας φολίδεσσιν.
 145 τοῖο δ' ἐλίσσομένοιο κατ' ὄμματα νίσσετο κούρη,
 ὕπνον ἀοσητήρα, θεῶν ὕπατον, καλέουσα
 ἠδείῃ ἐνοπῇ, θέλξαι τέρας· αὖτε δ' ἄνασσαν
 νυκτιπόλον, χθονίην, εὐαντέα δοῦναι ἐφορμήν.
 εἶπετο δ' Αἰσονίδης πεφοβημένος, αὐτὰρ ὄγ' ἦδη
 150 οἴμῃ θελγόμενος δολιχὴν ἀνελύετ' ἄκανθαν
 γηγενέος σπείρης, μήκυνε δὲ μυρία κύκλα,
 οἷον ὅτε βληχροῖσι κυλινδόμενον πελάγεσσιν
 κῦμα μέλαν κωφόν τε καὶ ἄβρομον· ἀλλὰ καὶ ἔμπης
 ὕψου σμερδαλέην κεφαλὴν μενέαινεν ἀεΐρας
 155 ἀμφοτέρους ὀλοῇσι περιπτύξαι γενύεσσιν.
 ἡ δέ μιν ἀρκεῦθοιο νέον τετμηότι θαλλῷ
 βάπτουσ' ἐκ κυκεῶνος ἀκήρατα φάρμακ' αἰοδαῖς
 ῥαῖνε κατ' ὀφθαλμῶν· περὶ τ' ἀμφὶ τε νήριτος ὀδμῇ
 φαρμάκου ὕπνον ἔβαλλε· γένυν δ' αὐτῇ ἐνὶ χώρῃ
 160 θῆκεν ἐρεϊσάμενος· τὰ δ' ἀπείρινα πολλὸν ὀπίσσω
 κύκλα πολυπρέμοιο διέξ ὕλης τετάνυστο.
 ἔνθα δ' ὁ μὲν χρύσειον ἀπὸ δρυὸς αἶνυτο κῶας,
 κούρης κεκλομένης· ἡ δ' ἔμπεδον ἐστηυῖα
 φαρμάκῳ ἔψηχεν θηρὸς κάρη, εἰσόκε δὴ μιν
 165 αὐτὸς ἐὼν ἐπὶ νῆα παλιντροπάσθαι Ἴησων
 ἦνωγεν, λεῖπεν δὲ πολὺσκιον ἄλσος Ἴηρος.
 ὥς δὲ σεληναίην διχομήνιδα παρθένος αἴγλην
 ὑπόθεν ἐξανέχουσιν ὑπωροφίου θαλάμοιο
 λεπταλέῳ ἐανῶ ὑποΐσχεται· ἐν δέ οἱ ἦτορ
 170 χαίρει δερκομένης καλὸν σέλας· ὧς τότε Ἴησων
 γηθόσυνος μέγα κῶας ἐαῖς ἐναεῖρατο χερσίν·
 καὶ οἱ ἐπὶ ξανθῇσι παρησίην ἠδὲ μετώπῳ
 μαρμαρυγῇ ληνέων φλογὶ εἵκελον ἵζεν ἔρευθος.

ὄσση δὲ ῥινὸς βοὸς ἦνιος ἢ ἐλάφοιο
175 γίγνεται, ἦν τ' ἀγρῶσται ἀχαιινέην καλέουσιν,
τόσσον ἔην πάντη χρύσειον ἐφύπερθεν ἄωτον.
βεβρίθει λήνεσσιν ἐπηρεφές· ἤλιθα δὲ χθὼν
αἰὲν ὑποπρὸ ποδῶν ἀμαρύσσετο νισσομένοιο.
ἦε δ' ἄλλοτε μὲν λαιῷ ἐπιειμένος ὦμῳ
180 αὐχένος ἐξ ὑπάτοιο ποδηνεκές, ἄλλοτε δ' αὐτὲ
εἴλει ἀφασσόμενος· περὶ γὰρ δίεν, ὄφρα ἔῃ μή τις
ἀνδρῶν ἢ θεῶν νοσφίσσεται ἀντιβολήσας.
Ἦώς μὲν ῥ' ἐπὶ γαῖαν ἐκίδνατο, τοὶ δ' ἐς ὄμιλον
ἵζον· θάμβησαν δὲ νέοι μέγα κῶας ἰδόντες
185 λαμπόμενον στεροπῇ ἵκελον Διός. ὦρτο δ' ἕκαστος
ψαῦσαι ἐελδόμενος δέχθαι τ' ἐνὶ χερσὶν ἐῆσιν.
Αἰσονίδης δ' ἄλλους μὲν ἐρήτυε, τῷ δ' ἐπὶ φᾶρος
κάββαλε νηγάτεον· πρύμνη δ' ἐνεείσατο κούρην
ἀνθέμενος, καὶ τοῖον ἔπος μετὰ πᾶσιν ἔειπεν·
190 'μηκέτι νῦν χάζεσθε, φίλοι, πάτρηνδε νέεσθαι.
ἦδη γὰρ χρειώ, τῆς εἵνεκα τήνδ' ἀλεγεινὴν
ναυτιλίην ἔτλημεν οἰζὺν μοχθίζοντες,
εὐπαλέως κούρης ὑπὸ δῆνεσι κεκράανται.
τὴν μὲν ἐγὼν ἐθέλουσαν ἀνάξομαι οἴκαδ' ἄκοιτιν
195 κουριδίην· ἀτὰρ ὕμμες Ἀχαιῖδος οἶά τε πάσης
αὐτῶν θ' ὑμείων ἐσθλὴν ἐπαργὸν ἐοῦσαν
σώετε. δὴ γάρ που, μάλ' οἴομαι, εἴσιν ἐρύζων
Αἰήτης ὁμάδῳ πόντονδ' ἵμεν ἐκ ποταμοῖο.
ἀλλ' οἱ μὲν διὰ νηός, ἀμοιβαδὶς ἀνέρος ἀνὴρ
200 ἐζόμενος, πηδοῖσιν ἐρέσσετε· τοὶ δὲ βοείας
ἀσπίδας ἡμίσεες, δῆων θοδὸν ἔχμα βολάων,
προσχόμενοι νόστῳ ἐπαμύνετε. νῦν δ' ἐνὶ χερσὶν
παῖδας ἐοὺς πάτρην τε φίλην, γεραροὺς τε τοκῆας
ἴσχομεν· ἡμετέρη δ' ἐπερείδεται Ἑλλάς ἐφορμῇ,
205 ἢ ἐκατηφείην, ἢ καὶ μέγα κῦδος ἀρέσθαι.'
ὣς φάτο, δῶνε δὲ τεύχε' ἀρήια· τοὶ δ' ἰάχησαν
θεσπέσιον μεμαῶτες. ὁ δὲ ξίφος ἐκ κολεοῖο
σπασσάμενος πρυμναῖα νεῶς ἀπὸ πείσματ' ἔκοψεν.
ἄγχι δὲ παρθενικῆς κεκορυθμένος ἰθυνητῆρι
210 Ἀγκαίῳ παρέβασκεν· ἐπείγετο δ' εἰρεσίῃ νηὺς
σπερχομένων ἄμοτον ποταμοῦ ἄφαρ ἐκτὸς ἐλάσσαι.
ἦδη δ' Αἰήτη ὑπερήνορι πᾶσί τε Κόλχοις
Μηδεῖης περίπυστος ἔρωσ καὶ ἔργ' ἐτέτυκτο.
ἐς δ' ἀγορὴν ἀγέροντ' ἐνὶ τεύχεσιν· ὅσσα δὲ πόντου
215 κύματα χειμερίοιο κορύσσεται ἐξ ἀνέμοιο,
ἢ ὅσα φύλλα χαμᾶζε περικλαδέος πέσεν ὕλης
φυλλοχόῳ ἐνὶ μηνί — τίς ἂν τάδε τεκμήρηται;

ὧς οἱ ἀπειρέσιοι ποταμοῦ παρεμέτρεον ὄχθας,
 κλαγγῇ μαιμώνοντες· ὁ δ' εὐτύκτῳ ἐνὶ δίφρῳ
 220 Αἰήτης ἵπποισι μετέπρεπεν, οὓς οἱ ὄπασσεν
 ἠέλιος πνοιῇσιν ἐειδομένους ἀνέμοιο,
 σκαιῇ μὲν ῥ' ἐνὶ χειρὶ σάκος δινωτὸν ἀείρων,
 τῇ δ' ἐτέρῃ πεύκην περιμήκεα· πᾶρ δέ οἱ ἐγγχος
 ἀντικρὺ τετάνυστο πελώριον· ἠνία δ' ἵππων
 225 γέντο χεροῖν Ἄψυρτος· υπεκπρὸ δὲ πόντον ἔταμνεν
 νηῦς ἥδη κρατεροῖσιν ἐπειγομένη ἐρέτησιν,
 καὶ μεγάλου ποταμοῖο καταβλώσκοντι ῥέεθρῳ.
 αὐτὰρ ἄναξ ἄτῃ πολυπήμονι χεῖρας ἀείρας
 ἠέλιον καὶ Ζῆνα κακῶν ἐπιμάρτυρας ἔργων
 230 κέκλετο· δεινὰ δὲ παντὶ παρασχεδὼν ἦπυε λαῶ
 εἰ μὴ οἱ κούρην αὐτάγρετον, ἥ ἀνὰ γαῖαν,
 ἥ πλωτῆς εὐρόντες ἔτ' εἰν ἄλός οἴδματι νῆα,
 ἄξουσιν, καὶ θυμὸν ἐνιπλήσει μενεαίνων
 τίσασθαι τάδε πάντα, δαήσονται κεφαλῇσιν
 235 πάντα χόλον καὶ πᾶσαν ἐὴν ὑποδέγμενοι ἄτην.
 ὧς ἔφατ' Αἰήτης· αὐτῷ δ' ἐνὶ ἡματι Κόλχοι
 νῆάς τ' εἰρύσσαντο, καὶ ἄρμενα νηυσὶ βάλοντο,
 αὐτῷ δ' ἡματι πόντον ἀνήιον· οὐδέ κε φαίης
 τόσσον νηίτην στόλον ἔμμεναι, ἀλλ' οἰωνῶν
 240 ἰλαδὼν ἄσπετον ἔθνος ἐπιβρομέειν πελάγεσσιν.
 οἱ δ' ἀνέμου λαιψηρὰ θεᾶς βουλῇσιν ἀέντος
 Ἥρης, ὄφρ' ὤκιστα κακὸν Πελῖαο δόμοισιν
 Αἰαίῃ Μήδεia Πελασγίδα γαῖαν ἵκηται,
 ἥοι ἐνὶ τριτάτῃ πρυμνήσια νηὸς ἔδησαν
 245 Παφλαγόνων ἀκτῇσι, πάροιθ' Ἄλυος ποταμοῖο.
 ἡ γάρ σφ' ἐξαποβάντας ἀρέσσασθαι θυέεσσιν
 ἠνώγει Ἐκάτην· καὶ δὴ τὰ μὲν, ὅσσα θυηλὴν
 κούρη πορσανέουσα τιτύσκετο, μήτε τις ἴστωρ
 εἴη, μήτ' ἐμὲ θυμὸς ἐποτρύνειεν ἀεΐδειν.
 250 ἄζομαι αὐδῆσαι· τό γε μὴν ἔδος ἐξέτι κείνου,
 ὃ ῥα θεᾶ ἥρωες ἐπὶ ῥηγμῖσιν ἔδειμαν,
 ἀνδράσιν ὀψιγόνοισι μένει καὶ τῆμος ιδέσθαι.
 αὐτίκα δ' Αἰσονίδης ἐμνήσατο, σὺν δὲ καὶ ὦλλοι
 ἥρωες, Φινῆος, ὃ δὴ πλόον ἄλλον ἔειπεν
 255 ἐξ Αἴης ἔσσεσθαι· ἀνώιστος δ' ἐτέτυκτο
 πᾶσιν ὁμῶς· Ἄργος δὲ λιλαιομένοις ἀγόρευσεν·
 'Νισσόμεθ' Ὀρχομενὸν τὴν ἔχραεν ὕμμι περῆσαι
 νημερτῆς ὁδε μάντις, ὅτῳ ξυνέβητε πάροιθεν.
 ἔστιν γὰρ πλόος ἄλλος, ὃν ἀθανάτων ἱερῆς
 260 πέφραδον, οἱ Θήβης Τριτωνίδος ἐκγεγάασιν.
 οὐπω τεῖρεα πάντα, τὰ τ' οὐρανῷ εἰλίσσονται,

οὐδέ τί πω Δαναῶν ἱερὸν γένος ἦεν ἀκοῦσαι
 πευθομένοις· οἳ δ' ἔσαν Ἀρκάδες Ἀπιδανῆες,
 Ἀρκάδες, οἳ καὶ πρόσθε σελιναίης ὑδέονται
 265 ζῶειν, φηγὸν ἔδοντες ἐν οὖρεσιν. οὐδὲ Πελασγίς
 χθὼν τότε κυδαλίμοισιν ἀνάσσετο Δευκαλίδησιν,
 ἦμος ὅτ' Ἑερίη πολυλήιος ἐκλήιστο,
 μήτηρ Αἴγυπτος προτερηγενέων αἰζῶν,
 καὶ ποταμὸς Τρίτων ἡύρροος, ᾧ ὕπο πᾶσα
 270 ἄρδεται Ἑερίη· Διόθεν δέ μιν οὔποτε δεύει
 ὄμβρος· ἄλις προχοῇσι δ' ἀνασταχύουσιν ἄρουραι.
 ἔνθεν δὴ τινά φασι πέριξ διὰ πᾶσαν ὀδεῦσαι
 Εὐρώπην Ἀσίην τε βίη καὶ κάρτει λαῶν
 σφωιτέρων θάρσει τε πεποιθότα· μυρία δ' ἄσθη
 275 νάσσαιτ' ἐποιχόμενος, τὰ μὲν ἢ ποθὶ ναιετάουσιν,
 ἢ καὶ οὐ· πουλὺς γὰρ ἄδην ἐπενήνοθεν αἰὼν.
 αἰᾶ γε μὴν ἔτι νῦν μένει ἔμπεδον υἱωνοί τε
 τῶνδ' ἀνδρῶν, οὓς ὅσγε καθίσσατο ναιέμεν Αἴαν,
 οἳ δὴ τοι γραπτὺς πατέρων ἔθεν εἰρύονται,
 280 κύρβιας, οἷς ἐνὶ πᾶσαι ὁδοὶ καὶ πείρατ' ἔασιν
 ὑγρῆς τε τραφερῆς τε πέριξ ἐπινισσομένοισιν.
 ἔστι δέ τις ποταμός, ὕπατον κέρας Ὠκεανοῖο,
 εὐρύς τε προβαθὴς τε καὶ ὀλκάδι νηὶ περῆσαι·
 Ἴστρον μιν καλέοντες ἐκὰς διετεκμήραντο·
 285 ὅς δὴ τοι τεῖως μὲν ἀπείρονα τέμνετ' ἄρουραν
 εἷς οἶος· πηγαὶ γὰρ ὑπὲρ πνοιῆς βορέαο
 Ῥιπαίοις ἐν ὄρεσσιν ἀπόπροθι μορμύρουσιν.
 ἀλλ' ὁπότεν Ὀρηκῶν Σκυθέων τ' ἐπιβήσεται οὖρους,
 ἔνθα διχῇ τὸ μὲν ἔνθα μετ' ἡφῆν ἄλα βάλλει
 290 τῇδ' ὕδωρ, τὸ δ' ὀπισθε βαθὺν διὰ κόλπον ἵησιν
 σχιζόμενος πόντου Τρινακρίου εἰσανέχοντα,
 γαίῃ ὃς ὑμετέρῃ παρακέκλιται, εἰ ἔτεδν δὴ
 ὑμετέρης γαίης Ἀχελώϊος ἐξανήσιν·
 ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη· τοῖσιν δὲ θεὰ τέρας ἐγγυάλιξεν
 295 αἴσιον, ᾧ καὶ πάντες ἐπευφήμησαν ἰδόντες
 στέλλεσθαι τήνδ' οἶμον. ἐπιπρὸ γὰρ ὀλκὸς ἐτύχθη
 οὐρανίης ἀκτῖνος, ὅπῃ καὶ ἀμεύσιμον ἦεν.
 γηθόσυννοι δὲ Λύκοιο κατ' αὐτόθι παῖδα λιπόντες
 λαΐφεσι πεπταμένοισιν ὑπεῖρ ἄλα ναυτίλλοντο,
 300 οὖρεα Παφλαγόνων θηεύμενοι. οὐδὲ Κάραμβιν
 γνάμψαν, ἐπεὶ πνοιαὶ τε καὶ οὐρανίου πυρὸς αἴγλη
 μεῖνεν, ἕως Ἴστροιο μέγαν ῥόον εἰσαφίκοντο.
 Κόλχοι δ' αὖτ' ἄλλοι μὲν, ἐτώσια μαστεύοντες,
 Κυανέας Πόντοιο διέκ πέτρας ἐπέρησαν·
 305 ἄλλοι δ' αὖ ποταμὸν μετεκίαθον, οἷσιν ἄνασσεν

Ἄψυρτος, Καλὸν δὲ διὰ στόμα πείρε λιασθεῖς.
 τῷ καὶ ὑπέφθη τούσγε βαλὼν ὕπερ αὐχένα γαίης
 κόλπον ἔσω πόντοιο πανέσχατον Ἴονιοιο.
 Ἴστρω γάρ τις νῆσος ἐέργεται οὔνομα Πεύκη,
 310 τριγλῶخين, εὖρος μὲν ἐς αἰγιαλοὺς ἀνέχουσα,
 στεῖνον δ' αὐτ' ἀγκῶνα ποτὶ ῥόον· ἀμφὶ δὲ δοῖαι
 σχίζονται προχοαί. τὴν μὲν καλέουσι Νάρηκος·
 τὴν δ' ὑπὸ τῇ νεάτῃ, Καλὸν στόμα. τῇ δὲ διαπρὸ
 Ἄψυρτος Κόλχοι τε θοώτερον ὠρμήθησαν·
 315 οἱ δ' ὕψοῦ νήσοιο κατ' ἀκροτάτης ἐνέοντο
 τηλόθεν. εἰαμενῆσι δ' ἐν ἄσπετα πῶεα λείπον
 ποιμένες ἄγραυλοι νηῶν φόβῳ, οἷά τε θήρας
 ὁσσόμενοι πόντου μεγακήτεος ἐξανιόντας.
 οὐ γάρ πω ἀλίας γε πάρος ποθὶ νῆας ἴδοντο,
 320 οὔτ' οὖν Θρήξιν μιγάδες Σκύθαι, οὐδὲ Σίγυννοι,
 οὔτ' οὖν Γραυκένιοι, οὔθ' οἱ περὶ Λαύριον ἥδη
 Σῖνδοι ἐρημαῖον πεδῖον μέγα ναιετάοντες.
 αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ τ' Ἄγγουρον ὄρος, καὶ ἄπωθεν ἐόντα
 Ἀγγούρου ὄρεος σκόπελον πάρα Καυλιακοῖο,
 325 ᾧ περὶ δὴ σχίζων Ἴστρος ῥόον ἐνθα καὶ ἐνθα
 βάλλει ἁλός, πεδῖον τε τὸ Λαύριον ἡμείψαντο,
 δὴ ῥα τότε Κρονίην Κόλχοι ἄλαδ' ἐκπρομολόντες
 πάντῃ, μὴ σφε λάθοιεν, ὑπετμήξαντο κελεύθους.
 οἱ δ' ὅπιθεν ποταμοῖο κατήλυθον, ἐκ δ' ἐπέρησαν
 330 δοῖας Ἀρτέμιδος Βρυγηίδας ἀγχόθι νήσους.
 τῶν δ' ἦτοι ἐτέρῃ μὲν ἐν ἱερὸν ἔσκεν ἔδεθλον·
 ἐγδ' ἐτέρῃ, πληθὺν πεφυλαγμένοι Ἀψύρτοιο,
 βαῖνον· ἐπεὶ κείνας πολέων λίπον ἐνδοθὶ νήσους
 αὐτῶς, ἄζόμενοι κούρην Διός· αἱ δὲ δὴ ἄλλαι
 335 στεῖνόμεναι Κόλχοισι πόρους εἵρυντο θαλάσσης.
 ὧς δὲ καὶ εἰς ἀκτὰς πληθὺν λίπεν ἀγχόθι νήσων
 μέσφα Σαλαγγῶνος ποταμοῦ καὶ Νέστιδος αἰῆς.
 ἐνθα κε λευγαλέῃ Μινύαι τότε δηιοτῇτι
 παυρότεροι πλεόνεσσιν ὑπείκαθον· ἀλλὰ πάροιθεν
 340 συνθεσίην, μέγα νεῖκος ἀλευάμενοι, ἐτάμοντο,
 κῶας μὲν χρύσειον, ἐπεὶ σφισιν αὐτὸς ὑπέστη
 Αἰήτης, εἰ κεῖνοι ἀναπλήσειαν ἀέθλους,
 ἔμπεδον εὐδικίῃ σφέας ἐξέμεν, εἴτε δόλοισιν,
 εἴτε καὶ ἀμφαδίην αὐτῶς ἀέκοντος ἀπηύρων·
 345 αὐτὰρ Μῆδειάν γε — τὸ γὰρ πέλεν ἀμφήριστον —
 παρθέσθαι κούρῃ Λητωίδι νόσφιν ὁμίλου,
 εἰσόκε τις δικάσῃσι θεμιστούχων βασιλῆων,
 εἴτε μιν εἰς πατρὸς χρεῖῳ δόμον αὖτις ἰκάνειν,
 εἴτε μεθ' Ἑλλάδα γαῖαν ἀριστήεσσιν ἔπεσθαι.

350 ἔνθα δ' ἐπεὶ τὰ ἕκαστα νόῳ πεμπάσσατο κούρη,
 δὴ ῥά μιν ὀξεῖται κραδίην ἐλέλιξαν ἀνῖαι
 νολεμές· αἴψα δὲ νόσφιν Ἴήσωνα μοῦνον ἐταίρων
 ἐκπροκαλεσσαμένη ἄγεν ἄλλυδις, ὄφρ' ἐλίασθεν
 πολλὸν ἐκάς, στονόεντα δ' ἐνωπαδὶς ἔκφατο μῦθον·
 355 'Αἰσονίδη, τίνα τήνδε συναρτύνασθε μενοινὴν
 ἄμφ' ἐμοί; ἥε σε πάγχυ λαθιφροσύναις ἐνέηκαν
 ἀγλαΐαι, τῶν δ' οὔτι μετατρέπη, ὅσσ' ἀγόρευες
 χρειοῖ ἐνισχύμενος; ποῦ τοι Διὸς Ἰκεσίοιο
 ὄρκια, ποῦ δὲ μελιχραὶ ὑποσχεσίαι βεβάασιν;
 360 ἥς ἐγὼ οὐ κατὰ κόσμον ἀναιδήτῳ ἰότητι
 πάτρην τε κλέα τε μεγάρων αὐτοὺς τε τοκῆας
 νοσφισάμην, τά μοι ἦεν ὑπέρτατα· τηλόθι δ' οἷη
 λυγρῇσιν κατὰ πόντον ἅμ' ἀλκυόνεσσι φορεῦμαι
 σὼν ἔνεκεν καμάτων, ἵνα μοι σόος ἀμφὶ τε βουσίην
 365 ἀμφὶ τε γηγενέεσσιν ἀναπλήσειας ἀέθλους.
 ὕστατον αὖ καὶ κῶας, ἐπεὶ τ' ἐπαῖστον ἐτύχθη,
 εἵλες ἐμῇ ματίῃ· κατὰ δ' οὐλοδὸν αἴσχος ἔχευα
 θηλυτέραις. τῷ φημὶ τεῖη κούρη τε δάμαρ τε
 αὐτοκασιγνήτη τε μεθ' Ἑλλάδα γαῖαν ἔπεσθαι.
 370 πάντη νυν πρόφρων ὑπερίστασο, μηδὲ με μούνην
 σεῖο λίπης ἀπάνευθεν, ἐποιχόμενος βασιλῆας.
 ἀλλ' αὐτῶς εἵρυσσο· δίκη δέ τοι ἔμπεδος ἔστω
 καὶ θέμις, ἣν ἄμφω συναρέσσαμεν· ἡ σύγ' ἔπειτα
 φασγάνῳ αὐτίκα τόνδε μέσον διὰ λαιμὸν ἀμῆσαι,
 375 ὄφρ' ἐπὶ ἥρα φέρωμαι ἐοικότα μαργοσύνησιν.
 σχετλίη, εἴ κεν δὴ με κασιγνήτοιο δικάσῃ
 ἔμμεναι οὗτος ἄναξ, τῷ ἐπίσχετε τάσδ' ἄλεγεινὰς
 ἄμφω συνθεσίας. πῶς ἵξομαι ὄμματα πατρός;
 ἦ μάλ' εὐκλειής; τίνα δ' οὐ τίσιν, ἥε βαρεῖαν
 380 ἄτην οὐ σμυγεῶς δεινῶν ὕπερ, οἷα ἔοργα,
 ὀτλήσω; σὺ δέ κεν θυμηδέα νόστον ἔλοιο;
 μὴ τόγε παμβασιλεία Διὸς τελέσειεν ἄκοιτις,
 ἥ ἐπικυδιάεις. μνήσαιο δέ καί ποτ' ἐμεῖο,
 στρευγόμενος καμάτοισι· δέρος δέ τοι ἴσον ὀνείροις
 385 οἴχοιτ' εἰς ἔρεβος μεταμώνιον. ἐκ δέ σε πάτρης
 αὐτίκ' ἐμαὶ σ' ἐλάσειαν Ἑρινύες· οἷα καὶ αὐτὴ
 σῇ πάθον ἀτροπῇ. τὰ μὲν οὐ θέμις ἀκράαντα
 ἐν γαίῃ πεσέειν. μάλα γὰρ μέγαν ἥλιτες ὄρκον,
 νηλεές· ἀλλ' οὐ θῆν μοι ἐπιλλίζοντες ὀπίσσω
 390 δὴν ἔσσεσθ' εὐκηλοὶ ἔκητί γε συνθεσιάων·
 ὥς φάτ' ἀναζείουσα βαρὺν χόλον· ἔτεο δ' ἦγε
 νῆα καταφλέξει, διὰ τ' ἔμπεδα πάντα κεάσσαι,
 ἐν δὲ πεσεῖν αὐτὴ μαλερῷ πυρί. τοῖα δ' Ἰήσων

μειλίχοις ἐπέεσσιν ὑποδδεΐσας προσέειπεν:

395 ἴσχεο, δαιμονίη: τὰ μὲν ἀνδάνει οὐδ' ἐμοὶ αὐτῷ.

ἀλλὰ τιν' ἀμβολίην διζήμεθα δημοτῆτος,
ὅσσον δυσμενέων ἀνδρῶν νέφος ἀμφιδέδην
εἵνεκα σεῦ. πάντες γάρ, ὅσοι χθόνα τήνδε νέμονται,

Ἀψύρτῳ μεμάασιν ἀμυνέμεν, ὄφρα σε πατρί,
400 οἷά τε ληισθεῖσαν, ὑπότροπον οἴκαδ' ἄγοιντο.

αὐτοὶ δὲ στυγερῷ κεν ὀλοίμεθα πάντες ὀλέθρῳ,
μίζαντες δαὶ χεῖρας: ὃ τοι καὶ ῥίγιον ἄλγος
ἔσσεται, εἴ σε θανόντες ἔλωρ κείνοισι λίποιμεν.

ἦδε δὲ συνθεσὶ κρανέει δόλον, ᾧ μιν ἐς αἶτην
405 βήσομεν. οὐδ' ἂν ὁμῶς περιναιέται ἀντιόωσιν
Κόλχοις ἦρα φέροντες ὑπὲρ σέο νόσφιν ἄνακτος,
ὅς τοι ἄοσσητήρ τε κασίγνητός τε τέτυκται:

οὐδ' ἂν ἐγὼ Κόλχοισιν ὑπείξω μὴ πολεμίζειν
ἀντιβίην, ὅτε μὴ με διεξ εἰῶσι νέεσθαι.'

410 Ἴσκεν ὑποσσαίνων: ἡ δ' οὐλοὸν ἔκφατο μῦθον:

ῥάξω νῦν. χρεῖώ γάρ ἀεικελίοισιν ἐπ' ἔργοις
καὶ τόδε μητίσασθαι, ἐπεὶ τὸ πρῶτον ἀάσθη
ἀμπλακίῃ, θεόθεν δὲ κακὰς ἦνυσσα μενοινάς.

τῦνη μὲν κατὰ μῶλον ἀλέξω δούρατα Κόλχων:

415 αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ κεῖνόν γε τεὰς ἐς χεῖρας ἰκέσθαι
μειλίζω: σὺ δέ μιν φαιδροῖς ἀγαπάξω δώροισι.

εἴ κέν πως κήρυκας ἀπερχομένους πεπιθόμι
οἰόθεν οἶον ἐμοῖσι συναρθμῆσαι ἐπέεσσιν,
ἐνθ' εἴ τοι τόδε ἔργον ἐφاندάνει, οὔτι μεγαίρω,

420 κτεῖνέ τε, καὶ Κόλχοισιν ἀεῖρεο δημοτῆτα.'

ὥς τῶγε ξυμβάντε μέγαν δόλον ἠρτύνοντο

Ἀψύρτῳ, καὶ πολλὰ πόρον ξεινήια δῶρα,
οἷς μέτα καὶ ἐπλόν δόσαν ἱερὸν Ὑψιπυλείης
πορφύρεον. τὸν μὲν ῥα Διωνύσῳ κάμον αὐταὶ

425 δῆι ἐν ἀμφιάλῳ Χάριτες θεαί: αὐτὰρ ὁ παιδὶ
δῶκε Θόαντι μεταὔτις: ὁ δ' αὖ λίπεν Ὑψιπυλείῃ:

ἡ δ' ἔπορ' Αἰσονίδῃ πολέσιν μετὰ καὶ τὸ φέρεσθαι
γλήνεσιν εὐεργὲς ξεινήιον. οὐ μιν ἀφάσσω,
οὔτε κεν εἰσορόων γλυκὺν ἥμερον ἐμπλήσειας.

430 τοῦ δὲ καὶ ἀμβροσίῃ ὁδμῇ πέλεν ἐξέτι κείνου,
ἐξ οὗ ἄναξ αὐτὸς Νυσήιος ἐγκατελεκτο

ἀκροχάλιζ οἶνῳ καὶ νέκταρι, καλὰ μεμαρπὼς
στήθεα παρθενικῆς Μινωίδος, ἣν ποτε Θησεὺς
Κνωσσόθεν ἐσπομένην Δίῃ ἐνὶ κάλλιπε νήσῳ.

435 ἡ δ' ὅτε κηρύκεσσιν ἐπεξυνώσατο μύθους,
θελγέμεν, εὖτ' ἂν πρῶτα θεᾶς περὶ νηὸν ἴκηται
συνθεσὶ, νυκτός τε μέλαν κνέφας ἀμφιβάλῃσιν,

ἐλθέμεν, ὄφρα δόλον συμφράσσεται, ὥς κεν ἐλοῦσα
χρύσειον μέγα κῶας ὑπότροπος αὐτὶς ὀπίσσω
440 βαίη ἐς Αἰήταο δόμους· πέρι γάρ μιν ἀνάγκη
υἷης Φρίξοιο δόσαν ξείνοισιν ἄγεσθαι·
τοῖα παραιφαμένη θελκτήρια φάρμακ' ἔπασσεν
αἰθέρι καὶ πνοιῇσι, τὰ κεν καὶ ἄπωθεν ἐόντα
ἄγριον ἠλιβάτοιο κατ' οὔρεος ἤγαγε θῆρα.
σχέτλι' Ἔρως, μέγα πῆμα, μέγα στύγος ἀνθρώποισιν,
ἐκ σέθεν οὐλόμεναί τ' ἔριδες στοναχαὶ τε γόοι τε,
ἄλγεά τ' ἄλλ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ἀπείρονα τετρήχασιν.
δυσμενέων ἐπὶ παισὶ κορύσσεο, δαῖμον, ἀερθεῖς,
οἷος Μηδεῖη στυγερὴν φρεσὶν ἔμβαλες ἄτην.
450 πῶς γὰρ δὴ μετιόντα κακῷ ἐδάμασσαν ὀλέθρῳ
Ἄψυρτον; τὸ γὰρ ἡμῖν ἐπισχερὼ ἦεν αἰοιδῆς.
ἦμος ὅτ' Ἀρτέμιδος νήσῳ ἐνὶ τήνγ' ἐλίποντο
συνθεσίῃ. τοὶ μὲν ῥα διάνδιχα νηυσὶν ἔκελσαν
σφωιτέραις κρινθέντες· ὁ δ' ἐς λόχον ἦεν Ἰήσων
455 δέγμενος Ἄψυρτόν τε καὶ οὓς ἐξαυτὶς ἐταίρους.
αὐτὰρ ὄγ' αἰνοτάτησιν ὑποσχεσίῃσι δολωθεῖς
καρπαλίμως ἦ νηὶ διεξ ἁλὸς οἶδμα περήσας,
νύχθ' ὑπο λυγαῖην ἱερῆς ἐπεβήσατο νήσου·
οἰόθι δ' ἀντικρὺ μετιῶν πειρήσατο μύθοις
460 εἶο κασιγνήτης, ἀταλὸς πάις οἷα χαράδρης
χειμερίης, ἦν οὐδὲ δι' αἰζηοὶ περώωσιν.
εἷ κε δόλον ξείνοισιν ἐπ' ἀνδράσι τεχνήσαιτο.
καὶ τῷ μὲν τὰ ἕκαστα συνήνεον ἀλλήλοισιν·
αὐτίκα δ' Αἰσονίδης πυκινοῦ ἐξᾶλτο λόχοιο,
465 γυμνὸν ἀνασχόμενος παλάμη ξίφος· αἶψα δὲ κούρη
ἔμπαλιν ὄμματ' ἔνεικε, καλυψαμένη ὀθόνησιν,
μὴ φόνον ἀθρήσειε κασιγνήτοιο τυπέντος.
τὸν δ' ὄγε, βουτύπος ὥστε μέγαν κερεαλκέα ταῦρον,
πλῆξεν ὀπιπεύσας νηοῦ σχεδόν, ὃν ποτ' ἔδειμαν
470 Ἀρτέμιδι Βρυγοὶ περιναίεται ἀντιπέρηθεν.
τοῦ ὄγ' ἐνὶ προδόμῳ γνῶξ ἦριπε· λοίσθια δ' ἦρως
θυμὸν ἀναπνείων χερσὶν μέλαν ἀμφοτέρησιν
αἶμα κατ' ὠτειλὴν ὑποῖσχετο· τῆς δὲ καλύπτρην
ἀργυφέν καὶ πέπλον ἀλευομένης ἐρύθηεν.
475 ὁξὺ δὲ πανδαμάτωρ λοξῷ ἶδεν οἶον ἔρεξαν
ὄμματι νηλειῆς ὀλοφώιον ἔργον Ἐρινύς.
ἦρως δ' Αἰσονίδης ἐξάργματα τάμνε θανόντος,
τρὶς δ' ἀπέλειξε φόνου, τρὶς δ' ἐξ ἄγος ἔπτυσ' ὀδόντων,
ἦ θέμις αὐθέντησι δολοκτασίας ἰλάεσθαι.
480 ὑγρὸν δ' ἐν γαίῃ κρῦπεν νέκυν, ἔνθ' ἔτι νῦν περ
κεῖται ὅστέα κεῖνα μετ' ἀνδράσιν Ἀψυρτεῦσιν.

οἱ δ' ἄμυδις πυρσοῖο σέλας προπάροιθεν ἰδόντες,
τό σφιν παρθενικὴ τέκμαρ μετιοῦσιν ἄειρεν,
Κολχίδος ἀγχόθι νηὸς εἴην παρὰ νῆ' ἐβάλλοντο
485 ἥρωες· Κόλχον δ' ὄλεκον στόλον, ἥτε κίρκοι
φῦλα πελειάων, ἥε μέγα πῶν λέοντες
ἀγρότεροι κλονέουσιν ἐνὶ σταθμοῖσι θορόντες.
οὐδ' ἄρα τις κείνων θάνατον φύγε, πάντα δ' ὄμιλον
πῦρ ἅ τε δηιόωντες ἐπέδραμον· ὁψὲ δ' Ἰήσων
490 ἦντησεν, μεμαῶς ἐπαμυνέμεν οὐ μάλ' ἀρωγῆς
δευομένοις· ἦδη δὲ καὶ ἄμφ' αὐτοῖο μέλοντο.
ἐνθα δὲ ναυτιλίας πυκινὴν περὶ μητιάσκειν
ἐξόμενοι βουλήν· ἐπὶ δὲ σφισιν ἦλυθε κούρη
φραζόμενοις· Πηλεὺς δὲ παροίτατος ἔκφατο μῦθον·
495 ἥδη νῦν κέλομαι νύκτωρ ἔτι νῆ' ἐπιβάντας
εἰρεσίῃ περάαν πλόον ἀντίον, ᾧ ἐπέχουσιν
δήιοι· ἠῶθεν γὰρ ἐπαθρήσαντας ἕκαστα
ἔλπομαι οὐχ ἓνα μῦθον, ὅτις προτέρωσε δίεσθαι
ἡμέας ὀτρυνέει, τοὺς πεισέμεν· οἷα δ' ἄνακτος
500 εὐνιδες, ἀργαλέησι διχοστασίης κεδόμενοι.
ῥηιδίῃ δὲ κεν ἄμμι, κεδασθέντων δίχα λαῶν,
ἧ τ' εἴη μετέπειτα κατερχομένοισι κέλευθος·
ὥς ἔφατ'· ἤνησαν δὲ νέοι ἔπος Λιακίδαο.
ρίμφα δὲ νῆ' ἐπιβάντες ἐπερρώοντ' ἐλάττησιν
505 νωλεμές, ὄφρ' ἱερὴν Ἥλεκτρίδα νῆσον ἴκοντο,
ἀλλάων ὑπάτην, ποταμοῦ σχεδὸν Ἡριδανοῖο.
Κόλχοι δ' ὀππότε ὄλεθρον ἐπεφράσθησαν ἄνακτος,
ἦτοι μὲν δίζεσθαι ἐπέχραον ἐνδοθὶ πάσης
Ἀργῶ καὶ Μινύας Κρονίης ἁλός· ἀλλ' ἀπέρκεν
510 Ἥρη σμερδαλέησι κατ' αἰθέρος ἀστεροπῇσιν.
ῥύστατον αὐτοὶ δ' αὐτὲ Κυταιίδος ἦθεα γαίης
στύξαν, ἀτυζόμενοι χόλον ἄγριον Αἰήταο,
ἔμπεδα δ' ἄλλυδις ἄλλοι ἐφορμηθέντες ἔνασθεν.
οἱ μὲν ἐπ' αὐτάων νήσων ἔβαν, ἧσιν ἐπέσχον
515 ἥρωες, ναίουσι δ' ἐπώνυμοι Ἀψύρτοιο·
οἱ δ' ἄρ' ἐπ' Ἰλυρικοῖο μελαμβαθέος ποταμοῖο,
τύμβος ἱν' Ἀρμονίης Κάδμοιό τε, πύργον ἔδειμαν,
ἀνδράσιν Ἐγγελέεσσιν ἐφέστιοι· οἱ δ' ἐν ὄρεσσιν
ἐνναίουσιν, ἅπερ τε Κεραύνια κικλήσκονται,
520 ἐκ τότε, ἐξότε τούσγε Διὸς Κρονίδαο κεραυνοὶ
νῆσον ἐς ἀντιπέραIAN ἀπέτραπον ὀρμηθῆναι.
ἥρωες δ' ὅτε δὴ σφιν εἰσατο νόστος ἀπήμων,
δὴ ῥα τότε προμολόντες ἐπὶ χθονὶ πείσματ' ἔδησαν
Ὑλλήων· νῆσοι γὰρ ἐπιπρούχοντο θαμειαὶ
525 ἀργαλέην πλώουσιν ὁδὸν μεσσηγὺς ἔχουσαι

οὐδέ σφιν, ὥς καὶ πρὶν, ἀνάρσια μητιάασκον
 Ὑλλῆες· πρὸς δ' αὐτοὶ ἐμηχανόωντο κέλευθον,
 μισθὸν ἀειρόμενοι τρίποδα μέγαν Ἀπόλλωνος.
 δοιοὺς γὰρ τρίποδας τηλοῦ πόρε Φοῖβος ἄγεσθαι
 530 Αἰσονίδῃ περόωντι κατὰ χρέος, ὅππότε Πυθῶ
 ἱρὴν πευσόμενος μετεκίαθε τῆσδ' ὑπὲρ αὐτῆς
 ναυτιλίας· πέπρωτο δ', ὅπῃ χθονὸς ἰδρυνθεῖεν,
 μήποτε τὴν δῆοισιν ἀναστήσεσθαι ἰοῦσιν.
 τούνεκεν εἰσέτι νῦν κείνῃ ὅδε κεῦθεται αἷη
 535 ἄμφι πόλιν ἀγανὴν Ὑλλήϊδα, πολλὸν ἔνερθεν
 οὐδεος, ὥς κεν ἄφαντος αἰεὶ μερόπεσσι πέλοιτο.
 οὐ μὲν ἔτι ζῶοντα καταυτόθι τέτμον ἄνακτα
 Ὑλλων, ὃν εὐειδῆς Μελίτη τέκεν Ἡρακλῆϊ
 δῆμῳ Φαιήκων. ὁ γὰρ οἰκία Ναυσιθόοιο
 540 Μάκριν τ' εἰσαφίκανε, Διωνύσοιο τιθήνῃν,
 νηψόμενος παίδων ὀλοὸν φόνον· ἐνθ' ὄγε κούρην
 Αἰγαίου ἐδάμασσαν ἐρασσάμενος ποταμοῖο,
 νηιάδα Μελίτην· ἡ δὲ σθεναρὸν τέκεν Ὑλλων.
 οὐδ' ἄρ' ὄγ' ἠβήσας αὐτῇ ἐνὶ ἔλδετο νήσῳ
 ναίειν, κοιρανέοντος ὑπ' ὀφρύσι Ναυσιθόοιο·
 βῆ δ' ἄλαδε Κρονίην, αὐτόχθονα λαὸν ἀγείρας
 Φαιήκων· σὺν γάρ οἱ ἄναξ πόρσυνε κέλευθον
 550 ἦρως Ναυσίθοος· τόθι δ' εἷσατο, καὶ μιν ἔπεφνον
 Μέντορες, ἀγραύλοισιν ἀλεξόμενον περὶ βουσίν.
 ἀλλὰ, θεαί, πῶς τῆσδε παρέξ ἁλός, ἄμφι τε γαίαν
 Αὐσονίην νήσους τε Λιγυστίδας, αἱ καλέονται
 Στοιχάδες, Ἀργῶς περιώσια σήματα νηὸς
 555 νημερτὲς πέφатаι· τίς ἀπόπροθι τόσσον ἀνάγκη
 καὶ χρειῶ σφ' ἐκόμισσε; τίνες σφέας ἤγαγον αὔραι;
 αὐτόν που μεγαλωστὶ δεδουπότος Ἀψύρτοιο
 Ζῆνα, θεῶν βασιλῆα, χόλος λάβεν, οἷον ἔρεξαν.
 Αἰαίης δ' ὀλοὸν τεκμήρατο δῆνεσι Κίρκης
 560 αἴμ' ἀπονιψαμένους, πρό τε μυρία πημανθέντας,
 νοστήσειν. τὸ μὲν οὕτις ἀριστήων ἐνόησεν·
 ἀλλ' ἔθεον γαίης Ὑλλήϊδος ἐξανιόντες
 τηλόθι· τὰς δ' ἀπέλειπον, ὅσαι Κόλχοισι πάροιθεν
 ἐξείης πλήθοντο Λιβυρνίδες εἰν ἀλὶ νῆσοι,
 565 Ἴσσα τε Δυσκέλαδός τε καὶ ἱμερτὴ Πιτύεια.
 αὐτὰρ ἔπειτ' ἐπὶ τῇσι παρὰ Κέρκυραν ἵκοντο,
 ἔνθα Ποσειδάων Ἀσωπίδα νάσσατο κούρην,
 ἠύκομον Κέρκυραν, ἐκάς Φλιουντίδος αἷης,
 ἀρπάξας ὑπ' ἔρωτι· μελαινομένην δέ μιν ἄνδρες
 570 ναυτίλοι ἐκ πόντοιο κελαινῇ πάντοθεν ὕλῃ
 δερκόμενοι Κέρκυραν ἐπικλείουσι Μέλαιναν.

τῇ δ' ἐπὶ καὶ Μελίτην, λιαρῶ περιγηθέες οὐρῶ,
 αἰπεινὴν τε Κερωσσόν, ὕπερθε δὲ πολλὸν ἐοῦσαν
 Νυμφαῖην παράμειβον, ἵνα κρείουσα Καλυψῶ
 575 Ἀτλαντὶς ναίεσκε· τὰ δ' ἡεροειδέα λεύσσειν
 οὔρεα δοιάζοντο Κεραῦνια. καὶ τότε βουλὰς
 ἄμφ' αὐτοῖς Ζηνός τε μέγαν χόλον ἐφράσαθ' Ἥρη.
 μηδομένη δ' ἄνυσιν τοῖο πλόου, ὥρσεν ἀέλλας
 ἀντικρὺ, ταῖς αὖτις ἀναρπάγδην φορέοντο
 580 νήσου ἔπι κραναῆς Ἥλεκτρίδος. αὐτίκα δ' ἄφνω
 ἶαχεν ἀνδρομέῃ ἐνοπῇ μεσσηγὺ θεόντων
 αὐδῆεν γλαφυρῆς νηὸς δόρυ, τό ρ' ἀνὰ μέσσην
 στεῖραν Ἀθηναίῃ Δωδωνίδος ἥρμοσε φηγοῦ.
 τοὺς δ' ὀλοὸν μεσσηγὺ δέος λάβεν εἰσαίοντας
 585 φθογγήν τε Ζηνός τε βαρὺν χόλον. οὐ γὰρ ἀλύξειν
 ἔννεπεν οὔτε πόρους δολιχῆς ἁλός, οὔτε θυέλλας
 ἀργαλέας, ὅτε μὴ Κίρκη φόνον Ἀψύρτοιο
 νηλέα νίψειεν· Πολυδεύκεα δ' εὐχετάσθαι
 Κάστορά τ' ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖς ἦνωγε κελεύθους
 590 Αὐσονίης ἔμπροσθε πορεῖν ἁλός, ἣ ἔνι Κίρκην
 δῆουσιν, Πέρσης τε καὶ Ἑλίοιο θύγατρα.
 ὥς Ἀργῶ ἰάχησεν ὑπὸ κνέφας· οἱ δ' ἀνόρουσαν
 Τυνδαρίδαι, καὶ χεῖρας ἀνέσχεθον ἀθανάτοισιν
 εὐχόμενοι τὰ ἕκαστα· κατηφείη δ' ἔχεν ἄλλους
 595 ἥρωας Μινύας. ἣ δ' ἔσσυτο πολλὸν ἐπιπρὸ
 λαΐφεισιν, ἐς δ' ἔβαλον μύχατον ῥόον Ἠριδανοῖο·
 ἔνθα ποτ' αἰθαλόεντι τυπεῖς πρὸς στέρνα κεραυνῶ
 ἡμιδαῆς Φαέθων πέσεν ἄρματος Ἑλίοιο
 λίμνης ἐς προχοὰς πολυβενθέος· ἣ δ' ἔτι νῦν περ
 600 τραύματος αἰθομένοιο βαρὺν ἀνακηκίει ἀτμόν.
 οὐδέ τις ὕδωρ κεῖνο διὰ πτερὰ κοῦφα τανύσσας
 οἰωνὸς δύναται βαλέειν ὕπερ· ἀλλὰ μεσηγὺς
 φλογμῷ ἐπιθρώσκει πεποτημένος. ἄμφι δὲ κοῦραι
 Ἥλιάδες ταναῆσιν ἐελμέναι αἰγείροισιν,
 605 μύρονται κινυρὸν μέλαι γόνον· ἐκ δὲ φαεινὰς
 ἡλέκτρον λιβάδας βλεφάρων προχέουσιν ἑράζε,
 αἱ μὲν τ' ἡελίῳ ψαμάθοις ἐπιτερσαίνονται·
 εὐτ' ἂν δὲ κλύζησι κελαινῆς ὕδατα λίμνης
 ἡϊόνας πνοιῇ πολυηχέος ἐξ ἀνέμοιο,
 610 δὴ τότε ἔς Ἠριδανὸν προκυλίνδεται ἀθρόα πάντα
 κυμαίνοντι ῥόῳ. Κελτοὶ δ' ἐπὶ βάξιν ἔθεντο,
 ὥς ἄρ' Ἀπόλλωνος τάδε δάκρυα Λητοῖδαο
 ἐμφέρεται δίναις, ἃ τε μυρία χεῖρε πάροιθεν,
 ἦμος Ὑπερβορέων ἱερὸν γένος εἰσαφίκανεν,
 615 οὐρανὸν αἰγλήεντα λιπὼν ἐκ πατρὸς ἐνιπῆς,

χωόμενος περί παιδί, τὸν ἐν λιπαρῇ Λακερείῃ
διὰ Κορωνίς ἔτικτεν ἐπὶ προχοῇς Ἀμύροιο.
καὶ τὰ μὲν ὥς κείνοισι μετ' ἀνδράσι κεκλήσται.
τοὺς δ' οὔτε βρώμης ἤρει πόθος, οὐδὲ ποτοῖο,
620 οὔτ' ἐπὶ γηθοσύνας τράπετο νόος. ἀλλ' ἄρα τοίγε
ἤματα μὲν στρεύγοντο περιβληχρὸν βαρύθοντες
ὁδμῇ λευγαλέῃ, τὴν ῥ' ἄσχετον ἐξανίσκον
τυφομένου Φαέθοντος ἐπιρροαὶ Ἑριδανοῖο:
νύκτας δ' αὖ γόον ὄξυν ὀδυρομένων ἐσάκουον
625 Ἠλιάδων λιγέως: τὰ δὲ δάκρυα μυρομένησιν
οἶον ἐλαιηραὶ στάγες ὕδασιν ἐμφορέοντο.
ἐκ δὲ τόθεν Ῥοδανοῖο βαθὺν ῥόον εἰσαπέβησαν,
ὅς τ' εἰς Ἑριδανὸν μετανίσσεται: ἄμμιγα δ' ὕδωρ
ἐν ξυνοχῇ βέβρυκε κυκώμενον. αὐτὰρ ὁ γαίης
630 ἐκ μυχάτης, ἵνα τ' εἰσὶ πύλαι καὶ ἐδέθλια Νυκτός,
ἐνθεν ἀπορνύμενος τῇ μὲν τ' ἐπερεύγεται ἀκτὰς
Ὠκεανοῦ, τῇ δ' αὖτε μετ' Ἰονίην ἄλα βάλλει,
τῇ δ' ἐπὶ Σαρδόνιον πέλαγος καὶ ἀπείρονα κόλπον
ἐπτά διὰ στομάτων ἔει ῥόον. ἐκ δ' ἄρα τοῖο
635 λίμνας εἰσέλασαν δυσχείμονας, αἳ τ' ἀνὰ Κελτῶν
ἤπειρον πέπτανται ἀθέσφατον: ἔνθα κεν οἶγε
ἄτῃ ἀεικελὴν πέλασαν. φέρε γάρ τις ἀπορρῶξ
κόλπον ἐς Ὠκεανοῖο, τὸν οὐ προδαέντες ἔμελλον
εἰσβαλεῖν, τόθεν οὐ κεν ὑπότροποι ἐξεσάωθεν.
640 ἀλλ' Ἥρη σκοπέλοιο καθ' Ἑρκυνίου ἰάχισεν
οὐρανόθεν προθοροῦσα: φόβῳ δ' ἐτίναχθεν αὐτῆς
πάντες ὁμῶς: δεινὸν γὰρ ἐπὶ μέγας ἔβραχεν αἰθήρ.
ἂψ δὲ παλιντροπόωντο θεᾶς ὑπο, καὶ ῥ' ἐνόησαν
τὴν οἶμον, τῇπέρ τε καὶ ἔπλετο νόστος ἰοῦσιν.
645 δηναιοὶ δ' ἀκτὰς ἀλιμυρέας εἰσαφίκοντο
Ἥρης ἐννεσίησι, δι' ἔθνεα μυρία Κελτῶν
καὶ Λιγύων περόωντες ἀδήιοι. ἀμφὶ γὰρ αἰνὴν
ἡέρα χεῦθε θεὰ πάντ' ἤματα νισσομένοισιν.
μεσσότατον δ' ἄρα τοίγε διὰ στόμα νηὶ βαλόντες
650 Στοιχάδας εἰσαπέβαν νήσους σοοὶ εἵνεκα κούρων
Ζηνός: ὃ δὴ βωμοὶ τε καὶ ἱερὰ τοῖσι τέτυκται
ἔμπεδον: οὐδ' οἶον κείνης ἐπίκουροι ἔποντο
ναυτιλίας: Ζεὺς δέ σφι καὶ ὀπιγόνων πόρε νῆας.
Στοιχάδας αὖτε λιπόντες ἐς Αἰθαλίην ἐπέρησαν
655 νῆσον, ἵνα ψηφίσιν ἀπωμόρξαντο καμόντες
ἰδρῶ ἄλλας: χροίῃ δὲ κατ' αἰγιαλοῖο κέχυνται
εἵκελαι: ἐν δὲ σόλοι καὶ τεύχεα θέσκελα κείνων:
ἐν δὲ λιμὴν Ἀργῶος ἐπωνυμίην πεφάτισται.
καρπαλίμως δ' ἐνθένδε διέξ ἁλὸς οἶδμα νέοντο

660 Αὐσονίης ἀκτὰς Τυρσηνίδας εἰσορόωντες·
 ἶξον δ' Αἰαίης λιμένα κλυτόν· ἐκ δ' ἄρα νηὸς
 πείσματ' ἐπ' ἠϊόνων σχεδόθεν βάλλον· ἔνθα δὲ Κίρκην
 εὖρον ἀλὸς νοτίδεσσι κάρη ἐπιφαιδρύνουσιν·
 τοῖον γὰρ νυχίοισιν ὀνείρασιν ἐπτοίητο.
 665 αἵματι οἱ θάλαμοί τε καὶ ἔρκεα πάντα δόμοιο
 μύρεσθαι δόκεον· φλόξ δ' ἄθρόα φάρμακ' ἔδαπτεν,
 οἷσι πάρος ξείνους θέλγ' ἀνέρας, ὅστις ἴκοιτο·
 τὴν δ' αὐτὴ φονίῳ σβέσεν αἵματι πορφύρουσαν,
 χερσὶν ἀφυσσαμένη· λῆξεν δ' ὀλοοῖο φόβοιο.
 670 τῷ καὶ ἐπιπλομένης ἡοῦς νοτίδεσσι θαλάσσης
 ἐγρομένη πλοκάμους τε καὶ εἵματα φαιδρύνεσκεν.
 θῆρες δ' οὐ θήρεσσιν ἐοικότες ὠμῆσθησιν,
 οὐδὲ μὲν οὐδ' ἄνδρεσσιν ὁμὸν δέμας, ἄλλο δ' ἀπ' ἄλλων
 συμμιγέες μελέων, κίον ἄθροοι, ἤυτε μῆλα
 675 ἐκ σταθμῶν ἄλις εἴσιν ὀπηδεύοντα νομῆι.
 τοίους καὶ προτέρης ἐξ ἰλῦος ἐβλάστησε
 χθὼν αὐτὴ μικτοῖσιν ἀρηρεμένους μελέεσσιν,
 οὐπω διψαλέῳ μάλ' ὑπ' ἡέρι πιληθεῖσα,
 οὐδέ πω ἄζαλέοιο βολαῖς τόσον ἡελίοιο
 680 ἱκμάδας αἰνυμένη· τὰ δ' ἐπὶ στίχας ἤγαγεν αἰὼν
 συγκρίνας· τὼς οἶγε φυὴν αἰδηλοὶ ἔποντο.
 ἥρωας δ' ἔλε θάμβος ἀπείριτον· αἶψα δ' ἕκαστος
 Κίρκης εἷς τε φυήν, εἷς τ' ὄμματα παπταίνοντες
 ῥεῖα κασιγνήτην φάσαν ἔμμεναι Αἰήταο.
 685 ἡ δ' ὅτε δὴ νυχίων ἀπὸ δεῖματα πέμψεν ὀνείρων,
 αὐτίκ' ἔπειτ' ἄψορρον ἀπέστιχε· τοὺς δ' ἄμ' ἔπεσθαι,
 χειρὶ καταρρέξασα, δολοφροσύνησιν ἄνωγεν.
 ἐνθ' ἦτοι πληθὺς μὲν ἐφετμαῖς Αἰσονίδαο
 μίμνεν ἀπηλεγέως· ὁ δ' ἐρύσσατο Κολχίδα κούρην.
 690 ἄμφω δ' ἐσπέσθην αὐτὴν ὁδόν, ἔστ' ἀφίκοντο
 Κίρκης ἐς μέγαρον· τοὺς δ' ἐν λιπαροῖσι κέλευεν
 ἦγε θρόνοις ἔξεσθαι, ἀμχανέουσα κιόντων.
 τῷ δ' ἄνεω καὶ ἄναυδοι ἐφ' ἐστίῃ αἰζάντε
 ἶζανον, ἥ τε δίκη λυγροῖς ἱκέτησι τέτυκται,
 695 ἡ μὲν ἐπ' ἀμφοτέραις θεμένη χεῖρεσσι μέτωπα,
 αὐτὰρ ὁ κωπῆεν μέγα φάσγανον ἐν χθονὶ πῆξας,
 ᾧπέρ τ' Αἰήταο πᾶιν κτάνεν· οὐδέ ποτ' ὅσσε
 ἰθὺς ἐνὶ βλεφάροισιν ἀνέσχεθον· αὐτίκα δ' ἔγνω
 Κίρκη φύζιον οἶτον ἀλιτροσύνας τε φόνοιο.
 700 τῷ καὶ ὀπιζομένη Ζηνὸς θέμιν Ἴκεσίοιο,
 ὃς μέγα μὲν κοτέει, μέγα δ' ἀνδροφόνοισιν ἀρῆγει,
 ῥέζε θυηπολὶν, οἷη τ' ἀπολυμαίνονται
 νηλειεῖς ἱκέται, ὅτ' ἐφέστιοι ἀντιώσιν.

πρῶτα μὲν ἀτρέπτοιο λυτήριον ἤγε φόνοιο
 705 τειναμένη καθύπερθε συὸς τέκος, ἥς ἔτι μαζοὶ
 πλήμυρον λοχίης ἐκ νηδύος, αἵματι χεῖρας
 τέγγεν, ἐπιτμήγουσα δέρην· αὗτις δὲ καὶ ἄλλοις
 μείλισσεν χύτλοισι, καθάρσιον ἀγκαλέουσα
 Ζῆνα, παλαμναίων τιμήορον ἱκεσιάων.
 710 καὶ τὰ μὲν ἄθρόα πάντα δόμων ἐκ λύματ' ἔνεικαν
 νηιάδες πρόπολοι, ταί οἱ πόρσυνον ἕκαστα.
 ἢ δ' εἴσω πελάνους μείλικτρά τε νηφαλίησιν
 καῖεν ἐπ' εὐχολῆσι παρέστιος, ὄφρα χόλοιο
 σμερδαλέας παύσειεν Ἑρινύας, ἡδὲ καὶ αὐτὸς
 715 εὐμειδῆς τε πέλοιτο καὶ ἡπιος ἀμφοτέροισιν,
 εἴτ' οὖν ὀθνείῳ μεμιασμένοι αἵματι χεῖρας,
 εἶτε καὶ ἐμφύλῳ προσκηδέες ἀντιώωσιν.
 αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ μάλα πάντα πονήσατο, δὴ τότε ἔπειτα
 εἷσεν ἐπὶ ξεστοῖσιν ἀναστήσασα θρόνοισιν,
 720 καὶ δ' αὐτὴ πέλας ἵζεν ἐνωπαδῖς. αἶψα δὲ μύθῳ
 χρειῶ ναυτιλίην τε διακριδὸν ἐξερέεινεν.
 ἢ δ' ὀπόθεν μετὰ γαῖαν ἔην καὶ δώματ' ἰόντες
 αὐτῶς ἰδρύνθησαν ἐφέστιοι. ἦ γὰρ ὄνειρων
 μῆστις ἀεικελὴ δύνεν φρένας ὀρμαίνουσιν·
 725 ἔτο δ' αὖ κούρης ἐμφύλιον ἴδμεναι ὁμφῆν,
 αὐτίχ' ὅπως ἐνόησεν ἀπ' οὐδεὸς ὅσσε βαλοῦσαν.
 πᾶσα γὰρ Ἥελίου γενεὴ ἀρίδηνος ἰδέσθαι
 ἦεν, ἐπεὶ βλεφάρων ἀποτηλόθι μαρμαρυγῆσιν
 οἷόν τέ χρυσέην ἀντώπιον ἔσαν αἶγλην.
 730 ἢ δ' ἄρα τῇ τὰ ἕκαστα διειρομένη κατελεξεν,
 Κολχίδα γῆρυν εἶσα, βαρύφρονος Αἰήταο
 κούρη μελιχίως, ἡμὲν στόλον ἡδὲ κελεύθους
 ἡρώων, ὅσα τ' ἀμφὶ θοοῖς ἐμόγησαν ἀέθλοις,
 ὥς τε κασιγνήτης πολυκηδέος ἦλιντε βουλαῖς,
 735 ὥς τ' ἀπονόσφιν ἄλυξεν ὑπέρβια δειμάτα πατρὸς
 σὺν παισὶν Φρίξοιο· φόνον δ' ἀλέεινεν ἐνισπεῖν
 Ἀψύρτου. τὴν δ' οὐτὶ νόῳ λάθην· ἀλλὰ καὶ ἔμπης
 μυρομένην ἐλέαιρεν, ἔπος δ' ἐπὶ τοῖον ἔειπεν·
 'σχετλίη, ἦ ῥα κακὸν καὶ ἀεικέα μῆσαο νόστον.
 740 ἔλπομαι οὐκ ἐπὶ δὴν σε βαρὺν χόλον Αἰήταο
 ἐκφυγέειν· τάχα δ' εἴσι καὶ Ἑλλάδος ἦθεα γαίης
 τισόμενος φόνον υἱός, ὅτ' ἄσχετα ἔργ' ἐτέλεσσας.
 ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ οὖν ἰκέτις καὶ ὁμόγνιος ἔπλευ ἐμεῖο,
 ἄλλο μὲν οὐτὶ κακὸν μητίσομαι ἐνθάδ' ἰοῦση·
 745 ἔρχεο δ' ἐκ μεγάρων ξείνῳ συνοπηδὸς ἐοῦσα,
 ὄντινα τοῦτον ἄιστον ἀείραο πατρὸς ἀνευθεν·
 μηδὲ με γουνάσσειαι ἐφέστιος, οὐ γὰρ ἔγωγε

αἰνήσω βουλὰς τε σέθεν καὶ ἀεικέα φύξιν.⁷
 ὧς φάτο· τὴν δ' ἀμέγαρτον ἄχος λάβεν· ἀμφὶ δὲ πέπλον
 750 ὀφθαλμοῖσι βαλοῦσα γόον χέεν, ὄφρα μιν ἥρως
 χειρὸς ἐπισχόμενος μεγάρων ἐξῆγε θύραζε
 δείματι παλλομένην· λείπον δ' ἀπὸ δώματα Κίρκης.
 οὐδ' ἄλοχον Κρονίδαο Διὸς λάθον· ἀλλὰ οἱ Ἴρις
 πέφραδεν, εὖτ' ἐνόησεν ἀπὸ μεγάροιο κιόντας.
 755 αὐτὴ γάρ μιν ἄνωγε δοκευέμεν, ὁππότε νῆα
 στείχοιεν· τὸ καὶ αὗτις ἐποτρύνουσ' ἀγόρευεν·
 ‘Ἴρι φίλη, νῦν, εἴ ποτ' ἐμὰς ἐτέλεσσας ἐφετμάς,
 εἰ δ' ἄγε λαιψηρῇσι μετοιχομένη πτερύγεσσιν,
 δεῦρο Θέτιν μοι ἄνωχθι μολεῖν ἄλδος ἐξανιοῦσαν.
 760 κείνης γὰρ χρειώ με κιχάνεται. αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα
 ἐλθεῖν εἰς Ἀκτὰς, ὅθι τ' ἄκμονες Ἥφαιστοιο
 χάλκειοι στιβαρῆσιν ἀράσσονται τυπίδεσσιν·
 εἰπὲ δὲ κοιμῆσαι φύσας πυρός, εἰσόκεν Ἀργῶ
 τάσγε παρεξέλασσησιν. ἀτὰρ καὶ ἐς Αἴολον ἐλθεῖν,
 765 Αἴολον, ὅς τ' ἀνέμοις αἰθρηγενέεσσιν ἀνάσσει·
 καὶ δὲ τῷ εἰπέμεναι τὸν ἐμὸν νόον, ὥς κεν ἀήτας
 πάντας ἀπολλήξειεν ὑπ' ἡέρι, μηδὲ τις αὔρη
 τρηχύνοι πέλαγος· Ζεφύρου γε μὲν οὖρος ἀήτω,
 ὄφρ' οἷγ' Ἀλκινόου Φαιηκίδα νῆσον ἴκωνται.’
 770 ὧς ἔφατ'· αὐτίκα δ' Ἴρις ἀπ' Οὐλύμποιο θοροῦσα
 τέμνε, τανυσσαμένη κοῦφα πτερὰ. δῦ δ' ἐνὶ πόντῳ
 Αἰγαίῳ, τόθι πέρ τε δόμοι Νηρῆος ἕασιν.
 πρώτην δ' εἰσαφίκανε Θέτιν, καὶ ἐπέφραδε μῦθον
 ‘Ἥρης ἐννεσίης, ὦρσέν τέ μιν εἰς ἔνεσθαι.
 775 δεῦτερα δ' εἰς Ἥφαιστον ἐβήσατο· παῦσε δὲ τόνγε
 ῥίμφα σιδηρεῖων τυπίδων· ἔσχοντο δ' αὐτμῆς
 αἰθαλέοι πρηστῆρες. ἀτὰρ τρίτον εἰσαφίκανεν
 Αἴολον Ἰππότεω παιῖδα κλυτόν. ὄφρα δὲ καὶ τῷ
 ἀγγελίην φαμένη θαρσύνεα παῦσεν ὁδοῖο,
 780 τόφρα Θέτις Νηρῆα κασιγνήτας τε λιποῦσα
 ἐξ ἄλδος Οὐλυμπόνδε θεὰν μετεκίαθεν Ἥρην·
 ἢ δέ μιν ἄσπον ἐοῖο παρεῖσέ τε, φαῖνέ τε μῦθον·
 ‘κέκλυθι νῦν, Θέτι δῖα, τά τοι ἐπιέλδομ' ἐνισπεῖν.
 οἴσθα μὲν, ὅσπον ἐμῆσιν ἐνὶ φρεσὶ τίεται ἥρως
 785 Αἰσονίδης, οἱ δ' ἄλλοι Ἀοσσητῆρες ἀέθλου,
 οἷως τέ σφ' ἐσάωσα διὰ πλαγκτὰς περόντας
 πέτρας, ἔνθα πάρος δειναὶ βρομέουσι θύελλαι,
 κύματά τε σκληρῇσι περιβλύει σπιλάδεσσιν.
 νῦν δὲ παρὰ Σκύλλης σκοπέλον μέγαν ἡδὲ Χάρυβδι
 790 δεινὸν ἐρευγομένην δέχεται ὁδός. ἀλλὰ σε γὰρ δὴ
 ἐξέτι νηπυτίης αὐτὴ τρέφον ἡδ' ἀγάπησα

ἔξοχον ἀλλάων, αἶ τ' εἰν ἀλὶ ναιετάουσιν,
 οὔνεκεν οὐκ ἔτλης εὐνῇ Διὸς ἱεμένοιο
 λέξασθαι. κείνῳ γὰρ αἰεὶ τάδε ἔργα μέμηλεν,
 795 ἥε σὺν ἀθανάταις ἥε θνητῇσιν ἰαύειν.
 ἀλλ' ἐμὲ αἰδομένη καὶ ἐνὶ φρεσὶ δειμαίνουσα,
 ἡλεύω· ὁ δ' ἔπειτα πελώριον ὄρκον ὁμοσσεν,
 μήποτε σ' ἀθανάτοιο θεοῦ καλέεσθαι ἄκοιτιν.
 ἔμπης δ' οὐ μεθίεσκεν ὀπιπεύων ἀέκουσαν,
 800 εἰσότε οἱ πρέσβειρα Θέμις κατέλεξεν ἅπαντα,
 ὥς δὴ τοι πέπρωται ἀμείνονα πατρός ἐοῖο
 παῖδα τεκεῖν· τῷ καὶ σε λιλαιόμενος μεθέηκεν,
 δείματι, μή τις ἐοῦ ἀντάξιος ἄλλος ἀνάσσοι
 ἀθανάτων, ἀλλ' αἰὲν ἐὼν κράτος εἰρύοιτο.
 805 αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ τὸν ἄριστον ἐπιχθονίων πόσιν εἶναι
 δῶκά τοι, ὄφρα γάμου θυμηδέος ἀντιάσειας,
 τέκνα τε φυτῦσαι· θεοὺς δ' ἐς δαῖτ' ἐκάλεσσα
 πάντας ὁμῶς· αὐτὴ δὲ σέλας χεῖρεςσιν ἀνέσχον
 νυμφίδιον, κείνης ἀγανόφρονος εἵνεκα τιμῆς.
 810 ἀλλ' ἄγε καὶ τινά τοι νημερτέα μῦθον ἐνίψω.
 εὖτ' ἂν ἐς Ἥλύσιον πεδῖον τεδὸς υἱὸς ἵκηται,
 ὃν δὴ νῦν Χείρωνος ἐν ἥθεσι Κενταύριοι
 νηιάδες κομέουσι τεοῦ λίπτοντα γάλακτος,
 χρειώ μιν κούρης πόσιν ἔμμεναι Αἰήταο
 815 Μηδείης· σὺ δ' ἄρηγε νυῶ ἐκυρή περ ἐοῦσα,
 ἥδ' αὐτῷ Πηληϊ. τί τοι χόλος ἐστήρικται;
 ἁάσθη. καὶ γάρ τε θεοὺς ἐπινίσσεται ἄτη.
 ναὶ μὲν ἐφημοσύνησιν ἐμαῖς Ἥφαιστον οἴω
 λωφήσειν πρήσοντα πυρὸς μένος, Ἴπποτάδην δὲ
 820 Αἴολον ὠκείας ἀνέμων ἄικας ἐρύζειν,
 νόσφιν ἐυσταθέος ζεφύρου, τείως κεν ἴκωνται
 Φαιήκων λιμένας· σὺ δ' ἀκηδέα μήδεο νόστον.
 δεῖμα δέ τοι πέτραι καὶ ὑπέρβια κύματ' ἔασιν
 μῶνον, ἃ κεν τρέψαιο κασιγνήτησι σὺν ἄλλαις.
 825 μηδὲ σύγ' ἥε Χάρυβδιν ἀμηχανέοντας ἐάσης
 ἐσβαλέειν, μὴ πάντας ἀναβρόξασα φέρησιν,
 ἥε παρὰ Σκύλλης στυγερόν κευθμῶνα νέεσθαι,
 Σκύλλης Αὐσονίης ὀλοόφρονος, ἣν τέκε Φόρκυι
 νυκτιπόλος Ἑκάτη, τήν τε κλείουσι Κράταιν,
 830 μὴ πως σμερδαλέησιν ἐπαῖξασα γένυσσιν
 λεκτοὺς ἡρώων δηλήσεται. ἀλλ' ἔχε νῆα
 κεῖσ', ὅθι περ τυτθὴ γε παραίβασις ἔσσει· ὀλέθρου.'
 ὧς φάτο· τὴν δὲ Θέτις τοίῳ προσελέξατο μύθῳ·
 'εἰ μὲν δὴ μαλεροῖο πυρὸς μένος ἡδὲ θύελλα
 835 ζαχρηεῖς λήξουσιν ἐτήτυμον, ἦ τ' ἂν ἐγῶγε

θαρσαλέη φαίην, καὶ κύματος ἀντιόωντος
νῆα σαωσέμεναι, ζεφύρου λίγα κινυμένοιο.
ἀλλ' ὦρῃ δολιχὴν τε καὶ ἄσπετον οἶμον ὁδεύειν,
ὄφρα κασιγνήτας μετελεύσομαι, αἷ μοι ἄρωγοὶ
840 ἔσσονται, καὶ νηὸς ὅθι πρυμνήσι' ἀνήπται,
ὥς κεν ὑπηῶι μνησαίατο νόστον ἐλέσθαι.
ἦ, καὶ ἀναΐξασα κατ' αἰθέρος ἔμπεσε δίναις
κυανέου πόντοιο: κάλει δ' ἐπαμυνέμεν ἄλλας
αὐτοκασιγνήτας Νηρηίδας: αἱ δ' αἰούσαι
845 ἦντεον ἀλλήλησι: Θέτις δ' ἀγόρευεν ἐφετμὰς
Ἥρης: αἴψα δ' ἱάλλε μετ' Αὐσονίην ἄλα πάσας.
αὐτὴ δ' ὠκυτέρῃ ἀμαρύγματος ἢ ἐβολάων
ἡελίου, ὅτ' ἄνεισι περαίης ὑψόθι γαίης,
σεύατ' ἴμεν λαιψηρὰ δι' ὕδατος, ἔστ' ἀφίκανεν
850 ἄκτῃν Αἰαίην Τυρσηνίδος ἠπείροιο.
τοὺς δ' εὖρεν παρὰ νηὶ σόλῳ ῥιπῆσί τ' οἰστών
τερπομένους: ἡ δ' ἄσπον ὀρεξαμένη χερὸς ἄκρης
Αἰακίδεω Πηλῆος: ὁ γάρ ῥα οἱ ἦεν ἀκοίτης:
οὐδέ τις εἰσιδέειν δύνατ' ἔμπεδον, ἀλλ' ἄρα τῶγε
855 οἶῳ ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἐείσατο, φώνησέν τε:
ῥηκέτι νῦν ἄκταῖς Τυρσηνίσιν ἦσθε μένοντες,
ἡῶθεν δὲ θοῆς πρυμνήσια λύετε νηὸς,
Ἥρῃ πειθόμενοι ἐπαρηγόνη. τῆς γὰρ ἐφετμῆς
πασσὺδ' ἡ κοῦραι Νηρηίδες ἀντιώωσιν,
860 νῆα δι' ἐκ πέτρας, αἷ τε Πλαγκταὶ καλέονται,
ῥυσόμεναι. κείνη γὰρ ἐναΐσιμος ὕμμι κέλευθος.
ἀλλὰ σὺ μὴ τῷ ἐμὸν δείξης δέμας, εὖτ' ἂν ἴδῃαι
ἀντομένην σὺν τῇσι: νόῳ δ' ἔχε, μὴ με χολώσης
πλεῖον ἔτ', ἢ τὸ πάροιθεν ἀπληγέως ἐχόλωσας.
865 ἦ, καὶ ἔπειτ' αἰδηλὸς ἐδύσατο βένθεα πόντου:
τὸν δ' ἄχος αἰνὸν ἔτυψεν, ἐπεὶ πάρος οὐκέτ' ἰοῦσαν
ἔδρακεν, ἐξότε πρῶτα λίπεν θάλαμόν τε καὶ εὐνὴν
χωσαμένη Ἀχιλῆος ἀγανοῦ νηπιάχοντος.
ἡ μὲν γὰρ βροτέας αἰεὶ περὶ σάρκας ἔδαιεν
870 νύκτα διὰ μέσσην φλογμῷ πυρός: ἤματα δ' αὖτε
ἀμβροσίῃ χρίσκε τέρην δέμας, ὄφρα πέλοιτο
ἄθάνατος, καὶ οἱ στυγερὸν χροὶ γῆρας ἀλάλκοι.
αὐτὰρ ὅγ' ἐξ εὐνῆς ἀνεπάλμενος εἰσενόησεν
παῖδα φίλον σπαίροντα διὰ φλογός: ἦκε δ' αὐτὴν
875 σμερδαλέην ἐσιδὼν, μέγα νήπιος: ἡ δ' αἰούσα
τὸν μὲν ἄρ' ἀρπάγδην χαμάδις βάλε κεκληγῶτα,
αὐτὴ δὲ πνοιῇ ἰκέλη δέμας, ἡὕτ' ὄνειρος,
βῆ ῥ' ἴμεν ἐκ μεγάροιο θοῶς, καὶ ἐσήλατο πόντον
χωσαμένη: μετὰ δ' οὔτι παλίσσυτος ἵκετ' ὀπίσσω.

880 τῷ μιν ἀμχανίῃ δῆσεν φρένας· ἀλλὰ καὶ ἔμπης
 πᾶσαν ἐφημοσύνην Θέτιδος μετέειπεν ἐταίροις.
 οἱ δ' ἄρα μεσσηγὺς λῆξαν καὶ ἔπαυσαν ἀέθλους
 ἐσσυμένως, δόρπον τε χαμεύνας τ' ἀμφεπένοντο,
 τῆς ἐνὶ δαισάμενοι νύκτ' ἄεσαν, ὥς τὸ πάροιθεν.
 885 ἦμος δ' ἄκρον ἔβαλλε φαεσφόρος οὐρανὸν Ἥως,
 δὴ τότε λαιψηροῖο κατηλυσίῃ ζεφύροιο
 βαῖνον ἐπὶ κληϊδας ἀπὸ χθονός· ἐκ δὲ βυθοῖο
 εὐναίας εἴλκον περιγηθέες ἄλλα τε πάντα
 ἄρμενα μηρύοντο κατὰ χρέος· ὕψι δὲ λαῖφος
 890 εἵρυσσαν τανύσαντες ἐν ἱμάντεσσι κεραίης.
 νῆα δ' ἐγκραῆς ἄνεμος φέρεν. αἶψα δὲ νῆσον
 καλήν, Ἀνθεμόεσσαν ἐσέδρακον, ἔνθα λίγειαί
 Σειρήνες σίνοντ' Ἀχελωίδες ἠδείησιν
 θέλγουσαι μολπῇσιν, ὅτις παρὰ πείσμα βάλοιτο.
 895 τὰς μὲν ἄρ' εὐειδῆς Ἀχελωῖω εὐνηθεῖσα
 γείνατο Τερψιχόρῃ, Μουσέων μία· καὶ ποτε Διοῦς
 θυγατέρ' ἰφθίμην ἀδμήτ' ἔτι πορσαίνεσκον
 ἄμμιγα μελπόμεναι· τότε δ' ἄλλο μὲν οἰωνοῖσιν,
 ἄλλο δὲ παρθενικῆς ἐναλίγκια ἔσκον ἰδέσθαι.
 900 αἰεὶ δ' εὐόρμου δεδοκημένοι ἐκ περιωπῆς
 ἦ θαμὰ δὴ πολέων μελιγδέα νόστον ἔλοντο,
 τηκεδόνι φθινύθουσαι· ἀπηλεγέως δ' ἄρα καὶ τοῖς
 ἔεσαν ἐκ στομάτων ὅπα λείριον. οἱ δ' ἀπὸ νηὸς
 ἦδη πείσματ' ἔμελλον ἐπ' ἠιόνεσσι βαλέσθαι,
 905 εἰ μὴ ἄρ' Οἰάγροιο πάϊς Θρηϊκίος Ὀρφεὺς
 Βιστονίην ἐνὶ χερσὶν ἑαῖς φόρμιγγα τανύσσας
 κραιπνὸν ἐντροχάλοιο μέλος κανάχησεν αἰοιδῆς,
 ὄφρ' ἄμυδις κλονέοντος ἐπιβρομέωνται ἀκουαῖ
 κρεγμῶ· παρθενικὴν δ' ἐνοπὴν ἐβιήσατο φόρμιγξ.
 910 νῆα δ' ὁμοῦ ζέφυρός τε καὶ ἠχῆεν φέρε κῦμα
 πρυμνόθεν ὀρνύμενον· ταὶ δ' ἄκριτον ἔεσαν αὐδὴν.
 ἀλλὰ καὶ ὧς Τελέοντος ἐὺς πάϊς, οἷος ἐταίρων
 προφθάμενος, ξεστοῖο κατὰ ζυγοῦ ἔνθορε πόντῳ
 Βούτης, Σειρήνων λιγυρῇ ὅπῃ θυμὸν ἰανθείς·
 915 νῆχ' δὲ πορφυρέοιο δι' οἴδατος, ὄφρ' ἐπιβαίῃ,
 σχέτλιος. ἦ τέ οἱ αἶψα καταντόθι νόστον ἀπηύρων,
 ἀλλὰ μιν οἰκτεῖρασα θεὰ Ἑρῆκος μεδέουσα
 Κύπρις ἔτ' ἐν δίναις ἀνερέψατο, καὶ ῥ' ἐσάωσεν
 πρόφρων ἀντομένη Λιλυβηίδα ναιέμεν ἄκρην.
 920 οἱ δ' ἄχρ' ἐσχόμενοι τὰς μὲν λίπον, ἄλλα δ' ὅπαζον
 κύντερα μιζοδίησιν ἀλὸς ῥαιστήρια νηῶν.
 τῇ μὲν γὰρ Σκύλλης λισσὴ προυφαίνετο πέτρη·
 τῇ δ' ἄμοτον βοάσκειν ἀναβλύζουσα Χάρυβδις·

ἄλλοθι δὲ Πλαγκταί μεγάλῳ ὑπὸ κύματι πέτραι
 925 ῥόχθον, ἥχι πάροιθεν ἀπέπτυνεν αἰθομένην φλοῶς
 ἄκρων ἐκ σκοπέλων, πυριθαλπέος ὑψόθι πέτρης,
 καπνῷ δ' ἀχλυόεις αἰθήρ πέλεν, οὐδέ κεν αὐγάς
 ἔδρακες ἠελίοιο. τότε' αὖ λήξαντος ἀπ' ἔργων
 Ἥφαιστου θερμὴν ἔτι κήκιε πόντος αὐτμήν.
 930 ἔνθα σφιν κοῦραι Νηρηίδες ἄλλοθεν ἄλλαι
 ἦντεον· ἡ δ' ὀπιθεν πτέρυγος θίγε πηδαλίοιο
 δῖα Θέτις, Πλαγκτῆσιν ἐνὶ σπιλάδεσσιν ἐρύσσαι.
 ὥς δ' ὁπότεν δελφῖνες ὑπὲξ ἁλὸς εὐδιόωντες
 σπερχομένην ἀγγελιδὸν ἐλίσσονται περὶ νῆα,
 935 ἄλλοτε μὲν προπάροιθεν ὀρώμενοι, ἄλλοτ' ὀπισθεν,
 ἄλλοτε παρβολάδην, ναύτησι δὲ χάρμα τέτυκται·
 ὧς αἱ ὑπεκπροθέουσαι ἐπήτριμοι εἰλίσσοντο
 Ἀργῶν περὶ νηί, Θέτις δ' ἴθυνε κέλευθον.
 καὶ ῥ' ὅτε δὴ Πλαγκτῆσιν ἐνιχρίμψεσθαι ἔμελλον,
 940 αὐτίκ' ἀνασχόμεναι λευκοῖς ἐπὶ γούνασι πέζας,
 ὑψοῦ ἐπ' αὐτῶν σπιλάδων καὶ κύματος ἀγῆς
 ῥώοντ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα διασταδὸν ἀλλήλησιν.
 τὴν δὲ παρηγορίην κόπτειν ῥόος· ἀμφὶ δὲ κύμα
 λάβρον ἀειρόμενον πέτραις ἐπικαχλάζεσκεν,
 945 αἶθ' ὅτε μὲν κρημνοῖς ἐναλίγκιαι ἠέρι κύρον,
 ἄλλοτε δὲ βρύχαι νεάτῳ ὑπὸ πυθμένι πόντου
 ἠρήρειν, τὸ δὲ πολλὸν ὑπείρεχεν ἄγριον οἶδμα.
 αἱ δ', ὥστ' ἠμαθόεντος ἐπισχεδὸν αἰγιαλοῖο
 παρθενικαί, δίχα κόλπον ἐπ' ἱξύας εἰλίξασαι
 950 σφαίρῃ ἀθύρουσιν περιηγεί· αἱ μὲν ἔπειτα
 ἄλλη ὑπ' ἑξ ἄλλης δέχεται καὶ ἐς ἡέρα πέμπει
 ὕψι μεταχρονίην· ἡ δ' οὐποτε πύλνεται οὐδὲι·
 ὧς αἱ νῆα θέουσας ἀμοιβαδὶς ἄλλοθεν ἄλλη
 πέμπε διηερίην ἐπὶ κύμασιν, αἰὲν ἄπωθεν
 955 πετράων· περὶ δὲ σφιν ἐρευγόμενον ζέεν ὕδωρ.
 τὰς δὲ καὶ αὐτὸς ἄναξ κορυφῆς ἐπὶ λισσάδος ἄκρης
 ὀρθὸς ἐπὶ στελεῇ τυπίδος βαρὺν ὤμον ἐρείσας
 Ἥφαιστος θεεῖτο, καὶ αἰγλήεντος ὑπερθεν
 οὐρανοῦ ἐστηνῖα Διὸς δάμαρ· ἀμφὶ δ' Ἀθήνη
 960 βάλλε χέρας, τοῖόν μιν ἔχεν δέος εἰσορώσαν.
 ὄσση δ' εἰαρινὸν μηκύνεται ἡματος αἶσα,
 τοσσάτιον μογέεσκον ἐπὶ χρόνον, ὀχλίζουσαι
 νῆα διὲκ πέτρας πολυηχέας· οἱ δ' ἀνέμοιο
 αὐτίς ἐπαυρόμενοι προτέρω θεόν· ὥκα δ' ἄμειβον
 965 Ὀρινακίης λειμῶνα, βοῶν τροφὸν Ἥελίοιο.
 ἔνθ' αἱ μὲν κατὰ βένθος ἀλίγκιαι αἰθυίησιν
 δύνον, ἐπεὶ ῥ' ἀλόχοιο Διὸς πόρσυνον ἐφετμάς.

τοὺς δ' ἄμυδις βληχὴ τε δι' ἡέρος ἵκετο μῆλων,
 μυκηθμός τε βοῶν αὐτοσχεδὸν οὐατ' ἔβαλλεν.
 970 καὶ τὰ μὲν ἐρσήεντα κατὰ δρία ποιμαίνεσκεν
 ὀπλοτέρη Φαέθουσα θυγατρῶν Ἑλείοιο,
 ἀργύρεον χαῖον παλάμη ἐνὶ πηχύνουσα:
 Λαμπετὴ δ' ἐπὶ βουσὶν ὀρειχάλκοιο φαεινοῦ
 πάλλεν ὀπηδεύουσα καλαύροπα. τὰς δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ
 975 βοσκομένας ποταμοῖο παρ' ὕδασι νεισομένων
 ἄμ πεδίον καὶ ἔλος λειμώνιον· οὐδέ τις ἦεν
 κυανὴ μετὰ τῆσι δέμας, πᾶσαι δὲ γάλακτι
 εἰδόμεναι, χρυσέοισι κεράσσι κυδιάασκον.
 καὶ μὲν τὰς παράμειβον ἐπ' ἡματι· νυκτὶ δ' ἰούσῃ
 980 πεῖρον ἁλὸς μέγα λαῖτμα κεχαρμένον, ὄφρα καὶ αὐτὶς
 Ἥως ἠριγενὴς φέγγος βάλε νισσομένοισιν.
 ἔστι δὲ τις πορθμοῖο παροιτέρη Ἴονιοιο
 ἀμφιλαφὴς πίειρα Κεραυνίη εἰν ἅλι νῆσος,
 ἣ ὕπο δὴ κεῖσθαι δρέπανον φάτις — ἴλατε Μοῦσαι,
 985 οὐκ ἐθέλων ἐνέπω προτέρων ἔπος — ᾧ ἀπὸ πατρὸς
 μῆδεα νηλειῶς ἔταμεν Κρόνος· οἱ δὲ ἐ Δηοῦς
 κλείουσι χθονὴς καλαμητόμον ἔμμεναι ἄρπην.
 Δηὼ γὰρ κείνῃ ἐνὶ δὴ ποτε νάσσατο γαίῃ,
 Τιτῆνας δ' ἔδαε στάχυν ὄμπνιον ἀμήσασθαι,
 990 Μάκριδα φιλαμένη. Δρεπάνῃ τότεν ἐκλήιστα
 οὔνομα, Φαιήκων ἱερὴ τροφός· ὧς δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ
 αἵματος Οὐρανίοιο γένος Φαίηκες ἔασιν.
 τοὺς Ἀργῶ πολέεσσιν ἐνισχομένη καμάτοισιν
 Θρινακίης αὐρῆς ἵκετ' ἐξ ἁλός· οἱ δ' ἀγανῆσιν
 995 Ἀλκίνοος λαοὶ τε θυηπολίῃσιν ἰόντας
 δειδέχατ' ἀσπασίως· ἐπὶ δὲ σφισι καγχαλάσκεν
 πᾶσα πόλις· φαίης κεν ἐοῖς ἐπὶ παισὶ γάνυσθαι.
 καὶ δ' αὐτοὶ ἥρωες ἀνὰ πληθὺν κεχάροντο,
 τῷ ἵκελοι, οἷόν τε μεσαιτάτῃ ἐμβεβαῶτες
 1000 Αἰμονίῃ· μέλλον δὲ βοῇ ἐνὶ θωρήξεσθαι·
 ὧδε μάλ' ἀγχίμολον στρατὸς ἄσπετος ἐξεφαάνθη
 Κόλχων, οἳ Πόντοιο κατὰ στόμα καὶ διὰ πέτρας
 Κυανέας μαστῆρες ἀριστήων ἐπέρησαν.
 Μῆδειαν δ' ἔξαιτον ἐοῦ ἐς πατρὸς ἄγεσθαι
 1005 ἔεντ' ἀπροφάτως, ἥ ἐ στονόεσσαν ἀντὶν
 νομήσειν χαλεπῇσιν ὁμόκλεον ἀτροπίησιν
 αὐθὶ τε καὶ μετέπειτα σὺν Αἰήταο κελεύθῳ.
 ἀλλὰ σφεας κατέρυκεν ἐπειγομένους πολέμοιο
 κρείων Ἀλκίνοος. λελίητο γὰρ ἀμφοτέροισιν
 1010 δηιοτῆτος ἀνευθεν ὑπέρβια νείκεα λῦσαι.
 κοῦρη δ' οὐλομένη ὑπὸ δείματι πολλὰ μὲν αὐτοῦς

Αἰσονίδεω ἐτάρους μειλίσσετο, πολλὰ δὲ χερσὶν
Ἀρήτης γούνων ἀλόχου θίγεν Ἀλκινόοιο·
‘γουνοῦμαι, βασιλεία: σὺ δ’ ἴλαθι, μηδέ με Κόλχοις
1015 ἐκδώης ᾧ πατρὶ κομιζέμεν, εἴ νυ καὶ αὐτὴ
ἀνθρώπων γενεῆς μία φέρβειαι, οἷσιν ἐς αἴτην
ὠκύτατος κούφησι θεεὶ νόος ἀμπλακίησιν.
ὥς ἐμοὶ ἐκ πυκιναῖ ἐπεσον φρένες, οὐ μὲν ἔκητι
μαργοσύνης. ἴστω δ’ ἱερὸν φάος Ἥελιοιο,
1020 ἴστω νυκτιπόλου Περσηίδος ὄργια κούρης,
μὴ μὲν ἐγὼν ἐθέλουσα σὺν ἀνδράσιν ἀλλοδαποῖσιν
κεῖθεν ἀφωρμήθην· στυγερὸν δέ με τάρβος ἔπεισεν
τῆσγε φυγῆς μνήσασθαι, ὅτ’ ἤλιτον· οὐδὲ τις ἄλλη
μητις ἔην. ἔτι μοι μήτηρ μένει, ὥς ἐνὶ πατρὸς
1025 δώμασιν, ἄχραντος καὶ ἀκήρατος. ἀλλ’ ἐλέαιρε,
πότνα, τεὸν τε πόσιν μειλίσσεο· σοὶ δ’ ὀπάσειαν
ἀθάνατοι βίοτόν τε τελεσφόρον ἀγλαΐην τε
καὶ παῖδας καὶ κῦδος ἀπορθήτοιο πόληος.’
τοῖα μὲν Ἀρήτην γουνάζετο δάκρυ χέουσα·
1030 τοῖα δ’ ἀριστήων ἐπαμοιβαδὶς ἄνδρα ἕκαστον·
‘ὕμεων, ᾧ πέρι δὴ μέγα φέρτατοι, ἀμφὶ τ’ ἀέθλοις
ὦν κάμον ὑμετέροισιν, ἀτύζομαι· ἥς ἰότητι
ταύρους τ’ ἐξέζυσσε, καὶ ἐκ θέρος οὐλοδὸν ἀνδρῶν
κεῖρατε γηγενέων· ἥς εἵνεκεν Αἰμονίνηδε
1035 χρύσειον αὐτίκα κῶας ἀνάξετε νοστήσαντες.
ἦδ’ ἐγὼ, ἦ πάτρην τε καὶ οὖς ὤλεσσα τοκῆας,
ἦ δόμον, ἦ σύμπασαν εὐφροσύνην βιότοιο·
ὑμμι δὲ καὶ πάτρην καὶ δώματα ναιέμεν αὖτις
ἦνυσα· καὶ γλυκεροῖσιν ἔτ’ εἰσόψεσθε τοκῆας
1040 ὄμμασιν· αὐτὰρ ἐμοὶ ἀπὸ δὴ βαρὺς εἴλετο daίμων
ἀγλαΐας· στυγερὴ δὲ σὺν ὀθνείοις ἀλάλημαι.
δεῖσατε συνθεσίας τε καὶ ὄρκια, δεῖσατ’ Ἑρινὺν
Ἰκεσίην, νέμεσίν τε θεῶν, ἐς χεῖρας ἰοῦσαν
Αἰήτεω λῶβη πολυπήμονι δηωθῆναι.
1045 οὐ νηούς, οὐ πύργον ἐπίρροθον, οὐκ ἀλεωρὴν
ἄλλην, οἰόθι δὲ προτιβάλλομαι ὑμέας αὐτούς.
σχέτλιοι ἀτροπῆς καὶ ἀνηλέες· οὐδ’ ἐνὶ θυμῷ
αἰδεῖσθε ξείνης μ’ ἐπὶ γούνατα χεῖρας ἀνάσσης
δερκόμενοι τείνουσαν ἀμήχανον· ἀλλά κε πᾶσιν,
1050 κῶας ἐλεῖν μεμαῶτες, ἐμίξατε δούρατα Κόλχοις
αὐτῷ τ’ Αἰήτῃ ὑπερήνορι· νῦν δ’ ἐλάθεσθε
ἡγορέης, ὅτε μοῦνοι ἀποτμηγέντες ἔασιν.’
ὥς φάτο λισσομένη· τῶν δ’ ὄντινα γουνάζοιτο,
ὅς μιν θαρσύνεσκεν ἐρητύων ἀχέουσαν.
1055 σεῖον δ’ ἐγχείας εὐήκεας ἐν παλάμῃσιν,

φάσγανά τ' ἐκ κολεῶν. οὐδὲ σήησεσθαι ἀρωγῆς
 ἔννεπον, εἴ κε δίκης ἀλιτῆμονος ἀντιάσειεν.
 στρευγομένοις δ' ἄν' ὄμιλον ἐπήλυθεν εὐνήτειρα
 νῦξ ἔργων ἄνδρεςσι, κατευκλήλησε δὲ πᾶσαν
 1060 γαῖαν ὁμῶς· τὴν δ' οὔτι μίνυνθά περ εὖνασεν ὕπνος,
 ἀλλὰ οἱ ἐν στέρνοις ἀχέων εἰλίσσεται θυμός.
 οἷον ὅτε κλωστήρα γυνὴ ταλαεργὸς ἐλίσσει
 ἐννυχίη· τῇ δ' ἀμφὶ κινύρεται ὄρφανὰ τέκνα
 χηροσύνη πόσιος· σταλάει δ' ὑπὸ δάκρυ παρειᾶς
 1065 μνωομένης, οἷη μιν ἐπὶ σμυγερῇ λάβεν αἶσα·
 ὥς τῆς ἱκμαίνοντο παρηίδες· ἐν δέ οἱ ἦτορ
 ὀξείης εἰλεῖτο πεπαρμένον ἀμφ' ὀδύνῃσιν.
 τῷ δ' ἔντοσθε δόμοιο κατὰ πτόλιν, ὥς τὸ πάροιθεν,
 κρείων Ἀλκίνοος πολυπότνια τ' Ἀλκινόοιο
 1070 Ἀρήτη ἄλοχος, κούρης πέρι μητιάσκειν
 οἷσιν ἐνὶ λεχέεσσι διὰ κνέφας· οἷα δ' ἀκοίτην
 κουρίδιον θαλεροῖσι δάμαρ προσπτύσσετο μύθοις·
 'ναὶ φίλος, εἰ δ' ἄγε μοι πολυκηδέα ρύεο Κόλχων
 παρθενικὴν, Μινύησι φέρων χάριν. ἐγγύθι δ' Ἄργος
 1075 ἡμετέρης νήσοιο καὶ ἄνδρες Αἰμονιῆς·
 Αἰήτης δ' οὔτ' ἄρ ναίει σχεδόν, οὐδέ τι ἴδμεν
 Αἰήτην, ἀλλ' οἷον ἀκούομεν· ἦδε δὲ κούρη
 αἰνοπαθὴς κατὰ μοι νόον ἔκλασεν ἀντιώσωσα.
 μὴ μιν, ἄναξ, Κόλχοισι πόροις ἐς πατρὸς ἄγεσθαι.
 1080 ἄασθη, ὅτε πρῶτα βοῶν θελκτῆρια δῶκεν
 φάρμακά οἱ· σχεδόνθεν δὲ κακῷ κακόν, οἷά τε πολλὰ
 ῥέζομεν ἀμπλακίησιν, ἀκειομένη ὑπάλυξεν
 πατρὸς ὑπερφιάλοιο βαρὺν χόλον. αὐτὰρ Ἰήσων,
 ὥς αἰώ, μεγάλοισιν ἐνίσχεται ἐξ ἔθεν ὄρκοις,
 1085 κουριδίην θήσεσθαι ἐνὶ μεγάροισιν ἄκοιτιν,
 τῷ, φίλε, μήτ' οὖν αὐτὸν ἐκὼν ἐπίορκον ὁμόσσαι
 θεῖης Αἰσονίδην, μήτ' ἄσχετα σείο ἔκητι
 παῖδα πατήρ θυμῷ κεκοτητότι δηλήσαιτο.
 λῖην γὰρ δύσζηλοι ἑαῖς ἐπὶ παισὶ τοκῆς·
 1090 οἷα μὲν Ἀντιόπην εὐώπιδα μήσατο Νυκτεὺς·
 οἷα δὲ καὶ Δανάη πόντῳ ἐνὶ πῆματ' ἀνέτλη,
 πατρὸς ἀτασθαλίῃσι· νέον γε μέν, οὐδ' ἀποτηλοῦ,
 ὕβριστῆς Ἐχέτος γλῆναις ἐνὶ χάλκεα κέντρα
 πῆξε θυγατρὸς ἐῆς· στονόνεντι δὲ κάρφεται οἴτω
 1095 ὄρφναίῃ ἐνὶ χαλκὸν ἀλετρεῦουσα καλιῇ·
 ὥς ἔφατ' ἀντομένη· τοῦ δὲ φρένες ἰαίνοντο
 ἦς ἀλόχου μύθοισιν, ἔπος δ' ἐπὶ τοῖον ἔειπεν·
 'Ἀρήτη, καὶ κεν σὺν τεύχεσιν ἐξέλασαμι
 Κόλχους, ἠρώεσσι φέρων χάριν, εἵνεκα κούρης.

1100 ἄλλὰ Διὸς δείδοικα δίκην ἰθεῖαν ἀτίσσαι.
 οὐδὲ μὲν Αἰήτην ἀθεριζέμεν, ὥς ἀγορεύεις,
 λῶιον· οὐ γάρ τις βασιλεύτερος Αἰήταιο.
 καὶ κ' ἐθέλων, ἕκαθέν περ, ἐφ' Ἑλλάδι νεῖκος ἄγοιτο.
 τῷ μ' ἐπέοικε δίκην, ἥτις μετὰ πᾶσιν ἀρίστη
 1105 ἔσσεται ἀνθρώποισι, δικαζέμεν· οὐδέ σε κεύσω.
 παρθενικὴν μὲν εὐῶσαν ἐῷ ἀπὸ πατρὶ κομίσσαι
 ἰθύνω· λέκτρον δὲ σὺν ἀνέρι πορσαίνουσαν
 οὐ μιν εὐὸ πόσιος νοσφίσσομαι· οὐδέ, γενέθλην
 εἴ τιν' ὑπὸ σπλάγχνοισι φέρει, δῆοισιν ὀπάσσω.'
 1110 ὣς ἄρ' ἔφη· καὶ τὸν μὲν ἐπισχεδὸν εὐνάσεν ὕπνος.
 ἡ δ' ἔπος ἐν θυμῷ πυκινὸν βάλετ'· αὐτίκα δ' ὄρτο
 ἐκ λεχέων ἀνὰ δῶμα· συνήϊζαν δὲ γυναῖκες
 ἀμφίπολοι, δέσποιναν ἐὴν μέτα ποιπνύουσαι.
 σίγα δ' ἐὼν κήρυκα καλεσσομένη προσέειπεν,
 1115 ἧσιν ἐπιφροσύνησιν ἐποτρυνέουσα μιγῆναι
 Αἰσονίδην κούρη, μηδ' Ἀλκίνοον βασιλῆα
 λίσσεσθαι· τὸ γὰρ αὐτὸς ἰὼν Κόλχοισι δικάσσει,
 παρθενικὴν μὲν εὐῶσαν εὐὸ ποτὶ δώματα πατρὸς
 ἐκδῶσειν, λέκτρον δὲ σὺν ἀνέρι πορσαίνουσαν
 1120 οὐκέτι κουριδίης μιν ἀποτμήξειν φιλότητος.
 ὣς ἄρ' ἔφη· τὸν δ' αἶψα πόδες φέρον ἐκ μεγάρου,
 ὥς κεν Ἰήσωνι μῦθον ἐναΐσιμον ἀγγεῖλειεν
 Ἀρήτης βουλὰς τε θεοῦδέος Ἀλκινόοιο.
 τοὺς δ' εὗρεν παρὰ νηὶ σὺν ἔντεσιν ἐγρήσσοντας
 1125 Ὑλλικῷ ἐν λιμένι, σχεδὸν ἄστεος· ἐκ δ' ἄρα πᾶσαν
 πέφραδεν ἀγγελίην· γήθησε δὲ θυμὸς ἐκάστου
 ἡρώων· μάλα γάρ σφιν ἐαδότα μῦθον ἔειπεν.
 αὐτίκα δὲ κρητῆρα κερασσάμενοι μακάρεσσιν,
 ἡ θέμις, εὐαγέως ἐπιβώμια μῆλ' ἐρύσαντες,
 1130 αὐτονυχὶ κούρη θαλαμῆιον ἔντυον εὐνήν
 ἄντρῳ ἐν ἡγαθέῳ, τόθι δὴ ποτε Μάκρις ἔναιεν,
 κούρη Ἀρισταίοιο μελίσσωνος, ὅς ῥα μελίσσέων
 ἔργα πολυκμήτοιο τ' ἀνεύρατο πῖαρ ἐλαίης.
 κείνη δὲ πάμπρωτα Διὸς Νυσῆιον υἷα
 1135 Εὐβοίης ἔντοσθεν Ἀβαντίδος ᾧ ἐνὶ κόλπῳ
 δέξατο, καὶ μέλιτι ξηρὸν περὶ χεῖλος ἔδυσεν,
 εὐτέ μιν Ἑρμείας φέρεν ἐκ πυρός· ἔδρακε δ' Ἥρη,
 καὶ ἐχολωσαμένη πάσης ἐξήλασε νήσου.
 ἡ δ' ἄρα Φαιήκων ἱερῷ ἐνὶ τηλόθεν ἄντρῳ
 1140 νάσσατο, καὶ πόρεν ὄλβον ἀθέσφατον ἐνναέτησιν.
 ἔνθα τότε ἑστόρεσαν λέκτρον μέγα· τοῖο δ' ὕπερθεν
 χρύσειον αἰγλήεν κῶας βάλλον, ὄφρα πέλοιτο
 τιμήεις τε γάμος καὶ αἰοίδιμος. ἄνθεα δὲ σφιν

νύμφαι ἀμεργόμεναι λευκοῖς ἐνὶ ποικίλᾳ κόλποις
 1145 ἐσφόρεον· πάσας δὲ πυρὸς ὥς ἄμφεπεν αἶγλη·
 τοῖον ἀπὸ χρυσέων θυσάνων ἀμαρύσσετο φέγγος.
 δαΐε δ' ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖς γλυκερὸν πόθον· ἴσχε δ' ἐκάστην
 αἰδῶς ἰεμένην περ ὅμως ἐπὶ χεῖρα βαλέσθαι.
 αἰ μὲν τ' Αἰγαίου ποταμοῦ καλέοντο θύγατρες·
 1150 αἰ δ' ὄρεος κορυφᾶς Μελιτηίου ἀμφενέμοντο·
 αἰ δ' ἔσαν ἐκ πεδίων ἄλσηϊδες, ὥρσε γὰρ αὐτὴ
 Ἥρῃ Ζηνὸς ἄκοιτις, Ἰήσωνα κυδαίνουσα.
 κεῖνο καὶ εἰσέτι νῦν ἱερὸν κληίζεται ἄντρον
 Μηδείης, ὅθι τούσγε σὺν ἀλλήλοισιν ἔμιξαν
 1155 τεινάμεναι ἑανοὺς εὐώδεας. οἱ δ' ἐνὶ χερσὶν
 δούρατα νωμήσαντες ἀρήια, μὴ πρὶν ἐς ἀλκὴν
 δυσμενέων αἰδηλὸς ἐπιβρίσειεν ὄμιλος,
 κράατα δ' εὐφύλλοις ἐστεμμένοι ἀκρεμόνεσσιν,
 ἐμμελέως, Ὀρφεὺς ὑπαὶ λίγα φορμίζοντος
 1160 νυμφιδίαις ὑμέναιον ἐπὶ προμολῆσιν αἶιδον.
 οὐ μὲν ἐν Ἀλκινόοιο γάμον μενέαινε τελέεσσαι
 ἥρως Αἰσονίδης, μεγάροις δ' ἐνὶ πατρὸς ἐοῖο,
 νοστήσας ἐς Ἴωλκὸν ὑπότροπος· ὧς δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ
 Μῆδεia φρονέεσκε· τότε αὖ χρεὼ ἦγε μιγῆναι.
 1165 ἀλλὰ γὰρ οὐποτε φῦλα δυηπαθέων ἀνθρώπων
 τερπωλῆς ἐπέβημεν ὄλω ποδί· σὺν δέ τις αἰεὶ
 πικρὴ παρμέμβλωκεν εὐφροσύνησιν ἀνίη.
 τῷ καὶ τοὺς γλυκερῇ περ ἱαινομένους φιλότῃ
 δεῖμ' ἔχεν, εἰ τελέοιτο διάκρισις Ἀλκινόοιο.
 1170 Ἥως δ' ἀμβροσίοισιν ἀνερχομένη φαέεσσιν
 λῦε κελαινὴν νύκτα δι' ἡέρος· αἰ δ' ἐγέλασσαν
 ἠιόνες νήσιοιο καὶ ἐρσήεσσαι ἄπωθεν
 ἀτραπιτοὶ πεδίων· ἐν δὲ θρόος ἔσκεν ἀγυιαῖς·
 κίνυντ' ἐνναέται μὲν ἀνὰ πτόλιν, οἱ δ' ἀποτηλοῦ
 1175 Κόλχοι Μακρινίδης ἐπὶ πείρασι χερνήσιοιο.
 αὐτίκα δ' Ἀλκίνοος μετεβήσετο συνθεσίσῃσιν
 ὄν νόον ἐξερέων κούρης ὕπερ· ἐν δ' ὄγε χειρὶ
 σκῆπτρον ἔχεν χρυσοῖο δικασπόλον, ᾧ ὑπο λαοὶ
 ἰθείας ἀνὰ ἄστρῳ διεκρίνοντο θέμιστας.
 1180 τῷ δὲ καὶ ἐξείης πολεμῆια τεύχεα δύντες
 Φαιήκων οἱ ἄριστοι ὀμίλαδὸν ἐστιχώοντο.
 ἥρωας δὲ γυναῖκες ἀολλέες ἔκτοθι πύργων
 βαῖνον ἐποψόμεναι· σὺν δ' ἄνδρες ἀγροῖῳται
 ἦντεον εἰσαΐοντες, ἐπεὶ νημερτέα βάζιν
 1185 Ἥρῃ ἐπιπρόεηκεν. ἄγεν δ' ὁ μὲν ἔκκριτον ἄλλων
 ἀρνεῖον μῆλῶν, ὁ δ' ἀεργηλὴν ἔτι πόρφιν·
 ἄλλοι δ' ἀμφιφορῆας ἐπισχεδὸν ἵστασαν οἴνου

κίρνασθαι· θυνών δ' ἀποηλόθι κήκιε λιγνύς.
αἰ δὲ πολυκμήτους ἑανούς φέρον, οἷα γυναικες,
1190 μείλιά τε χρυσοῖο καὶ ἀλλοίην ἐπὶ τοῖσιν
ἀγλαίην, οἷν τε νεόζυγες ἐντύνονται·
θάμβευν δ' εἰσορόωσαι ἀριπρεπέων ἡρώων
εἶδεα καὶ μορφάς, ἐν δὲ σφισιν Οἰάγροιο
υἶον ὑπαὶ φόρμιγγος ἐνκρέκτου καὶ ἀοιδῆς
1195 ταρφέα σιγαλόεντι πέδον κροτέοντα πεδίλῳ.
νύμφαι δ' ἄμμιγα πᾶσαι, ὅτε μνήσαιο γάμοιο,
ἡμερόενθ' ὑμέναιον ἀνήπυνον· ἄλλοτε δ' αὖτε
οἰόθεν οἶαι ἄειδον ἐλισσόμεναι περὶ κύκλον,
Ἥρη, σεῖο ἔκητι· σὺ γὰρ καὶ ἐπὶ φρεσὶ θῆκας
1200 Ἀρήτη, πυκινὸν φάσθαι ἔπος Ἀλκινόοιο.
αὐτὰρ ὅγ' ὥς τὰ πρῶτα δίκης ἀνὰ πείρατ' ἔειπεν
ἰθείης, ἦδη δὲ γάμου τέλος ἐκλήιστο,
ἔμπεδον ὧς ἀλέγυνε διαμπερές· οὐδὲ ἐ τάρβος
οὐλοόν, οὐδὲ βαρεῖαι ἐπῆλυθον Αἰήταο
1205 μῆνιες, ἀρρήκτοισι δ' ἐνιζεύζας ἔχεν ὄρκους.
τῷ καὶ ὅτ' ἠλεμάτως Κόλχοι μάθον ἀντιώωντες,
καὶ σφεας ἦε θέμιστας ἐὰς εἴρυσθαι ἄνωγεν,
ἣ λιμένων γαίης τ' ἀποτηλόθι νῆας ἐέργειν,
δὴ τότε μιν βασιλῆος ἐοῦ τρομέοντας ἐνιπᾶς
1210 δέχθαι μειλίζαντο συνήμονας· αὖθι δὲ νήσῳ
δὴν μάλα Φαιήκεσσι μετ' ἀνδράσι ναιετάασκον,
εἰσότε Βακχιάδαι, γενεὴν Ἐφύρηθεν ἐόντες,
ἄνδρες ἐννάσσαντο μετὰ χρόνον· οἱ δὲ περαῖην
νῆσον ἔβαν· κεῖθεν δὲ Κεραῦνια μέλλον Ἀβάντων
1215 οὔρεα, Νεσταίους τε καὶ Ὠρικὸν εἰσαφικέσθαι·
ἀλλὰ τὰ μὲν στείχοντος ἄδην αἰῶνος ἐτύχθη.
Μοιράων δ' ἔτι κεῖσε θύη ἐπέτεια δέχονται
καὶ Νυμφέων Νομίοιο καθ' ἱερὸν Ἀπόλλωνος
βωμοί, τοὺς Μῆδεια καθίσσατο. πολλὰ δ' ἰοῦσιν
1220 Ἀλκίνοος Μινύαις ξεινήια, πολλὰ δ' ὄπασσεν
Ἀρήτη· μετὰ δ' αὖτε δωδέκα δῶκεν ἔπεσθαι
Μηδείῃ δμῳᾶς Φαιηκίδας ἐκ μεγάροιο.
ἤματι δ' ἐβδομάτῳ Δρεπάνην λίπον· ἤλυθε δ' οὔρος
ἄκραῆς ἠῶθεν ὑπὲκ Διός· οἱ δ' ἀνέμοιο
1225 πνοιῇ ἐπειγόμειοι προτέρῳ θεόν. ἀλλὰ γὰρ οὐπω
αἴσιμον ἦν ἐπιβῆναι Ἀχαιίδος ἡρώεσσιν,
ὄφρ' ἔτι καὶ Λιβύης ἐπὶ πείρασιν ὀτλήσειαν.
ἦδη μὲν ποθὶ κόλπον ἐπώνυμον Ἀμβρακικῶν,
ἦδη Κουρῆτιν ἔλιπον χθόνα πεπταμένοισιν
1230 λαίφεσι καὶ στεινὰς αὐταῖς σὺν Ἐχινάσι νήσους
ἐξείης, Πέλοπος δὲ νέον κατεφαίνετο γαῖα·

καὶ τότε ἄναρπάγδην ὅλοῃ βορέαο θύελλα
μεσσηγὺς πέλαγόςδε Λιβυστικὸν ἐννέα πάσας
νύκτας ὁμῶς καὶ τόσσα φέρ' ἥματα, μέχρις ἴκοντο
1235 προπρὸ μάλ' ἐνδοθι Σύρτιν, ὅθ' οὐκέτι νόστος ὀπίσσω
νηυσὶ πέλει, ὅτε τόνγε βίωατο κόλπον ἰκέσθαι.
πάντη γὰρ τέναγος, πάντη μνιόνεντα βυθοῖο
τάρφεα· κωφὴ δέ σφιν ἐπιβλύει ὕδατος ἄχνη·
ἡερίη δ' ἄμαθος παρακέκλιται· οὐδέ τι κεῖσε
1240 ἐρπετόν, οὐδὲ ποτητὸν αἰρείεται. ἐνθ' ἄρα τούσγε
πλυμυρίσ — καὶ γάρ τ' ἀναχάζεται ἡπείροιο
ἧ θαμὰ δὴ τότε χεῦμα, καὶ ἄψ ἐπερεύγεται ἀκτὰς
λάβρον ἐποιχόμενον — μυχάτη ἐνέωσε τάχιστα
ἡϊόνι, τρόπιος δὲ μάλ' ὕδασι παῦρον ἔλειπτο.
1245 οἱ δ' ἀπὸ νηὸς ὄρουσαν, ἄχος δ' ἔλεν εἰσορόωντας
ἡέρα καὶ μεγάλης νῶτα χθονὸς ἡέρι ἴσα,
τηλοῦ ὑπερτείνοντα διηνεκές· οὐδέ τιν' ἀρδμόν,
οὐ πάτον, οὐκ ἀπάνευθε κατηυγάσσαντο βοτήρων
αὔλιον, εὐκῆλῳ δὲ κατείχετο πάντα γαλήνῃ.
1250 ἄλλος δ' αὖτ' ἄλλον τετιμημένος ἐξερέεινεν·
'τίς χθὼν εὐχεται ἦδε; πόθι ξυνέωσαν ἅελλαι
ἡμέας; αἶθ' ἔτλημεν, ἀφειδέες οὐλομένοιο
δείματος, αὐτὰ κέλευθα διαμπερὲς ὀρμηθῆναι
πετράων. ἦ τ' ἂν καὶ ὑπὲρ Διὸς αἴσαν ἰοῦσιν
1255 βέλτερον ἦν μέγα δὴ τι μενοινῶντας ὀλέσθαι.
νῦν δὲ τί κεν ῥέξαιμεν, ἐρυκόμενοι ἀνέμοισιν
αὔθι μένειν τυτθὸν περ ἐπὶ χρόνον; οἷον ἐρήμη
πέζα διωλυγίης ἀναπέπταται ἡπείροιο.'
ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη· μετὰ δ' αὐτὸς ἀμηχανίη κακότητος
1260 ἰθυνητὴρ Ἀγκαῖος ἀκηχέμενος ἀγόρευσεν·
'Ὀλόμεθ' αἰνότατον δῆθεν μόρον, οὐδ' ὑπάλυξις
ἔστ' ἄτης· πάρα δ' ἄμμι τὰ κύντατα πημανθῆναι
τῇδ' ἐπ' ἐρημαίῃ πεπτηότας, εἰ καὶ ἀῆται
χερσόθεν ἀμπνεύσειαν· ἐπεὶ τεναγώδεα λεύσσω
1265 τῇλε περισκοπέων ἅλα πάντοθεν· ἦλιθα δ' ὕδωρ
ξαίνόμενον πολίῃσιν ἐπιτροχάει ψαμάθοισιν.
καὶ κεν ἐπισμυγεῶς διὰ δὴ πάλαι ἦδ' ἐκεάσθη
νηῦς ἱερὴ χέρσου πολλὸν πρόσω· ἀλλά μιν αὐτὴ
πλημυρίς ἐκ πόντοιο μεταχθονίην ἐκόμισσεν.
1270 νῦν δ' ἡ μὲν πέλαγόςδε μετέσσυται, οἰόθι δ' ἄλμῃ
ἄπλοος εἰλεῖται, γαίης ὑπὲρ ὅσσον ἔχουσα.
τούνεκ' ἐγὼ πᾶσαν μὲν ἀπ' ἐλπίδα φημὶ κεκόφθαι
ναυτιλίας νόστου τε. δαημοσύνην δέ τις ἄλλος
φαίνοι ἐήν· πάρα γάρ οἱ ἐπ' οἰήκεσσι θαάσσειν
1275 μαιομένῳ κομιδῆς. ἀλλ' οὐ μάλα νόστιμον ἦμαρ

Ζεὺς ἐθέλει καμάτοισιν ἐφ' ἡμετέροισι τελέσσαι.⁷
 ὧς φάτο δακρυόεις· σὺν δ' ἔννεπον ἀσχαλόωντι
 ὅσσοι ἔσαν νηῶν δεδαημένοι· ἐν δ' ἄρα πᾶσιν
 παχνώθη κραδίη, χύτο δὲ χλόος ἀμφὶ παρειάς.
 1280 οἷον δ' ἀψύχοισιν εὐικότες εἰδώλοισιν
 ἄνδρες εἰλίσσονται ἀνὰ πτόλιν, ἣ πολέμοιο
 ἣ λοιμοῖο τέλος ποτιδέγμενοι, ἢε τιν' ὄμβρον
 ἄσπετον, ὅς τε βοῶν κατὰ μυρία ἔκλυσεν ἔργα,
 ἣ ὅταν αὐτόματα ξόανα ῥέη ἰδρώοντα
 1285 αἵματι, καὶ μυκαὶ σηκοῖς ἐνι φαντάζωνται,
 ἢε καὶ ἡέλιος μέσφ' ἡματι νύκτ' ἐπάγησιν
 οὐρανόθεν, τὰ δὲ λαμπρὰ δι' ἡέρος ἄστρα φαεῖνοι·
 ὧς τὸτ' ἀριστῆες δολιχοῦ πρόπαρ αἰγιαλοῖο
 ἦλυνον ἐρπύζοντες. ἐπήλυθε δ' αὐτίκ' ἐρεμνῇ
 1290 ἔσπερος. οἱ δ' ἐλεεινὰ χεροῖν σφέας ἀμφιβαλόντες
 δακρυόειν ἀγάπαζον, ἴν' ἀνδιχα δῆθεν ἕκαστος
 θυμὸν ἀποφθίσειαν ἐνὶ ψαμάθοισι πεσόντες.
 βὰν δ' ἴμεν ἄλλυδις ἄλλος ἑκαστέρω αὖλιν ἐλέσθαι·
 ἐν δὲ κάρη πέπλοισι καλυψάμενοι σφετέροισιν
 1295 ἄκμηνοι καὶ ἄπαστοι ἐκείατο νύκτ' ἐπὶ πᾶσαν
 καὶ φάος, οἰκτίστῳ θανάτῳ ἐπὶ. νόσφι δὲ κοῦραι
 ἄθροαι Αἰήταο παρεστενάχοντο θυγατρί.
 ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἐρημαῖοι πεπτηότες ἔκτοθι πέτρης
 χηραμοῦ ἀπτήνες λιγέα κλάζουσι νεοσσοί·
 1300 ἣ ὅτε καλὰ νάοντος ἐπ' ὀφρύσι Πακτωλοῖο
 κύκνοι κινήσωσιν ἐὸν μέλος, ἀμφὶ δὲ λειμῶν
 ἐρσήεις βρέμεται ποταμοῖο τε καλὰ ῥέεθρα·
 ὧς αἱ ἐπὶ ξανθὰς θέμεναι κονίησιν ἐθείρας
 παννύχαι ἐλεεινὸν ἰήλεμον ὠδύροντο.
 1305 καὶ νύ κεν αὐτοῦ πάντες ἀπὸ ζωῆς ἐλίαςθεν
 νώνυμοι καὶ ἄφαντοι ἐπιχθονίοισι δαῖναν
 ἡρώων οἱ ἄριστοι ἀνηνύστῳ ἐπ' ἀέθλῳ·
 ἀλλὰ σφεας ἐλέηραν ἀμηχανίη μινύθοντας
 ἡρῶσσαι, Λιβύης τιμήοροι, αἳ ποτ' Ἀθήνην,
 1310 ἦμος ὅτ' ἐκ πατρὸς κεφαλῆς θόρε παμφαίνουσα,
 ἀντόμεναι Τρίτωνος ἐφ' ὕδασι χυτλώσαντο.
 ἔνδιον ἡμαρ ἔην, περὶ δ' ὀξύταται θέρον αὐγαὶ
 ἡελίου Λιβύην· αἱ δὲ σχεδὸν Λίσονίδαο
 ἔσταν, ἔλον δ' ἀπὸ χερσὶ καρήατος ἡρέμα πέπλων.
 1315 αὐτὰρ ὅγ' εἰς ἐτέρωσε παλιμπετὲς ὄμματ' ἔνεικεν,
 δαίμονας αἰδεσθεῖς· αὐτὸν δέ μιν ἀμφαδὸν οἶον
 μειλίχοις ἐπέεσσιν ἀτυζόμενον προσέειπον·
 'κάμμορε, τίπτ' ἐπὶ τόσσον ἀμηχανίη βεβόλησαι;
 ἴδμεν ἐποιχομένους χρύσειον δέρος· ἴδμεν ἕκαστα

1320 ὑμετέρων καμάτων, ὅς' ἐπὶ χθονός, ὅσσα τ' ἐφ' ὕγρην
 πλαζόμενοι κατὰ πόντον ὑπέρβια ἔργ' ἐκάμεσθε.
 οἰοπόλοι δ' εἰμὲν χθόνιαι θεαὶ αὐδήεσσαι,
 ἡρῶσσαι, Λιβύης τιμήοροι ἡδὲ θύγατρες.
 ἀλλ' ἄνα· μηδ' ἐτι τοῖον οἰζύων ἀκάχησο·
 1325 ἄνστησον δ' ἐτάρους. εὖτ' ἂν δέ τοι Ἀμφιτρίτη
 ἄρμα Ποσειδάωνος ἐύτροχον αὐτίκα λύσῃ,
 δὴ ῥα τότε σφετέρῃ ἀπὸ μητέρι τίνετ' ἀμοιβὴν
 ὧν ἔκαμεν δηρὸν κατὰ νηδύος ὕμμε φέρουσα·
 καὶ κεν ἔτ' ἡγαθέην ἐς Ἀχαιίδα νοστήσαιτε·
 ὥς ἄρ' ἔφαν, καὶ ἄφαντοι ἴν' ἔσταθεν, ἐνθ' ἄρα ταίγε
 φθογῇ ὁμοῦ ἐγένοντο παρασχεδόν. αὐτὰρ Ἰήσων
 παπτήνας ἄν' ἄρ' ἔζετ' ἐπὶ χθονός, ὧδέ τ' ἔειπεν·
 “Ἰλατ' ἐρημονόμοι κυδραὶ θεαί· ἀμφὶ δὲ νόστῳ
 οὔτι μαλ' ἀντικρὺ νοέω φάτιν. ἥ μὲν ἐταίρους
 1335 εἰς ἓν ἀγειράμενος μυθήσομαι, εἴ νύ τι τέκμωρ
 δῆωμεν κομιδῆς· πολέων δέ τε μῆτις ἀρείων.”
 ἦ, καὶ ἀναΐζας ἐτάρους ἐπὶ μακρὸν ἀύτει,
 αὐσταλέος κονίησι, λέων ὥς, ὅς ῥα τ' ἄν' ὕλην
 σύννομον ἦν μεθέπων ὠρύεται· αἱ δὲ βαρεῖη
 1340 φθογῇ ὑποτρομέουσιν ἄν' οὔρεα τηλόθι βῆσαι·
 δείματι δ' ἄγραυλοὶ τε βόες μέγα πεφρίκασιν
 βουπελάτα τε βοῶν· τοῖς δ' οὐ νύ τι γῆρυς ἐτύχθη
 ῥιγεδανὴ ἐτάριοιο φίλους ἐπικεκλομένοιο.
 ἀγχοῦ δ' ἡγερέθοντο κατηφές· αὐτὰρ ὁ τοῦσγε
 1345 ἀχνυμένους ὄρμοιο πέλας μίγα θηλυτέρησιν
 ἰδρύσας, μυθεῖτο πιφασκόμενος τὰ ἕκαστα·
 ‘κλῦτε, φίλοι· τρεῖς γάρ μοι ἀνιάζοντι θεάων,
 στέρφεσιν αἰγείοις ἐζωσμέναι ἐξ ὑπάτοιο
 αὐχένος ἀμφὶ τε νῶτα καὶ ἰξύας, ἥντε κοῦραι,
 1350 ἔσταν ὑπὲρ κεφαλῆς μάλ' ἐπισχεδόν· ἂν δ' ἐκάλυσαν
 πέπλον ἐρυσσάμεναι κούφῃ χειρί, καὶ μ' ἐέλοντο
 αὐτόν τ' ἔγρεσθαι, ἀνά θ' ὑμέας ὄρσαι ἰόντα·
 μητέρι δὲ σφετέρῃ μενοεικέα τῖσαι ἀμοιβὴν
 ὧν ἔκαμεν δηρὸν κατὰ νηδύος ἄμμε φέρουσα
 1355 ὁππότε κεν λύσῃσιν ἐύτροχον Ἀμφιτρίτη
 ἄρμα Ποσειδάωνος. ἐγὼ δ' οὐ πάγχυ νοῆσαι
 τῆσδε θεοπροπίης ἴσχω πέρι. φάν γε μὲν εἶναι
 ἡρῶσσαι, Λιβύης τιμήοροι ἡδὲ θύγατρες·
 καὶ δ' ὀπόσ' αὐτοὶ πρόσθεν ἐπὶ χθονός ἡδ' ὅς' ἐφ' ὕγρην
 1360 ἔτλημεν, τὰ ἕκαστα διίδμεναι εὐχετόωντο.
 οὐδ' ἐτι τάσδ' ἀνὰ χῶρον ἐσέδρακον, ἀλλὰ τις ἀχλὺς
 ἡ ἐ νέφος μεσσηγὺ φαεινομένας ἐκάλυπεν·
 ὥς ἔφαθ'· οἱ δ' ἄρα πάντες ἐθάμβεον εἰσαΐοντες.

ἐνθα τὸ μήκιστον τεράων Μινύησιν ἐτύχθη.

1365 ἐξ ἁλὸς ἥπειρόνδε πελώριος ἔκθορεν ἵππος,
ἀμφιλαφής, χρυσέησι μετήορος αὐχένα χαίταις·
ρίμφα δὲ σεισάμενος γυίων ἄπο νήχυτον ἄλμην
ᾠρτο θεεῖν, πνοιῇ ἵκελος πόδας. αἶψα δὲ Πηλεὺς
γηθήσας ἐτάροισιν ὁμηγερέεσσι μετηύδα·

1370 ἄρματα μὲν δὴ φημι Ποσειδάωνος ἔγωγε
ἤδη νῦν ἀλόχοιο φίλης ὑπὸ χερσὶ λελύσθαι·
μητέρα δ' οὐκ ἄλλην προτιόσσομαι, ἡέ περ αὐτὴν
νῆα πέλειν· ἥ γάρ κατὰ νηδύος ἄμμε φέρουσα
νωλεμὲς ἀργαλέοισιν οἰζῦει καμάτοισιν.

1375 ἀλλὰ μιν ἀστεμφεῖ τε βίη καὶ ἀτειρέσιν ὤμοις
ὕψοθεν ἀνθέμενοι ψαμαθώδεος ἔνδοθι γαίης
οἴσομεν, ἥ προτέρωσε ταχὺς πόδας ἤλασεν ἵππος.
οὐ γὰρ ὅγε ξηρὴν ὑποδύσεται· ἵχνια δ' ἡμῖν
σημανέειν τιν' ἔολπα μυχὸν καθύπερθε θαλάσσης·

1380 ὧς ἡὔδα· πάντεσσι δ' ἐπήβολος ἦνδανε μῆτις·
Μουσάων ὅδε μῦθος· ἐγὼ δ' ὑπακουὸς αἰεῖδω
Πιερίδων, καὶ τήνδε πανατρεκὲς ἐκλυον ὁμφήν,
ὕμεάς, ὃ πέρι δὴ μέγα φέρτατοι υἴες ἀνάκτων,
ἥ βίῃ ἢ τ' ἀρετῇ Λιβύης ἀνὰ θῖνας ἐρήμους

1385 νῆα μεταχρονίην ὅσα τ' ἔνδοθι νηὸς ἄγεσθε,
ἀνθεμένους ὥμοισι φέρειν δυοκαίδεκα πάντα
ἡμαθ' ὁμοῦ νύκτας τε. δύνῃ γε μὲν ἦ καὶ οἰζὺν
τίς κ' ἐνέποι, τὴν κεῖνοι ἀνέπλησαν μογέοντες·
ἔμπεδον ἀθανάτων ἔσαν αἵματος, οἷον ὑπέσταν

1390 ἔργον, ἀναγκαίῃ βεβημένοι. αὐτὰρ ἐπιπρὸ
τῆλε μάλ' ἀσπασίως Τριτωνίδος ὕδασι λίμνης
ὥς φέρον, ὥς εἰσβάντες ἀπὸ στιβαρῶν θέσαν ὥμων.
Λυσσαλέοις δῆπειτ' ἵκελοι κυσὶν αἰσسونτες
πίδακα μαστεύεσκον· ἐπὶ ξηρῇ γὰρ ἔκειτο

1395 δίψα δυηπαθίῃ τε καὶ ἄλγεσιν, οὐδ' ἐμάτησαν
πλαζόμενοι· ἵξον δ' ἱερὸν πέδον, ᾧ ἐνὶ Λάδων
εἰσέτι που χθιζὸν παγχρύσεια ρύετο μῆλα
χώρῳ ἐν Ἄτλαντος, χθόνιος ὄφης· ἀμφὶ δὲ νύμφαι
Ἑσπερίδες ποίπνυον, ἐφίμερον αἰείδουσαι.

1400 δὴ τότε δ' ἤδη τῆμος ὕφ' Ἡρακλῆϊ δαίχθεις
μήλειον βέβλητο ποτὶ στύπος· οἰόθι δ' ἄκριη
οὐρῇ ἔτι σκαίρεσκεν· ἀπὸ κρατὸς δὲ κελαινήν
ἄχρις ἐπ' ἄκνηστιν κεῖτ' ἄπνοος· ἐκ δὲ λιπόντων
ὕδρης Λερναίης χόλον αἵματι πικρὸν οἰστῶν

1405 μυῖαι πυθομένοισιν ἐφ' ἔλκεσι τερσαίνοντο.
ἀγχοῦ δ' Ἑσπερίδες κεφαλαῖς ἐπὶ χεῖρας ἔχουσαι
ἀργυφέας ξανθῇσι λίγ' ἔστενον· οἱ δ' ἐπέλασσαν

ἄφνω ὁμοῦ· ταὶ δ' αἶψα κόνις καὶ γαῖα, κιόντων
 ἐσσυμένως, ἐγένοντο καταυτόθι. νόσατο δ' Ὀρφεὺς
 1410 θεῖα τέρα, τὰς δέ σφι παρηγορέεσκε λιτῆσιν·
 'δαίμονες ὦ καλαὶ καὶ εὐφρονες, ἴλατ', ἀνασσα,
 εἴτ' οὖν οὐρανίαις ἐναρίθμιοι ἐστε θεῆσιν,
 εἴτε καταχθονίαις, εἴτ' οἰοπόλοι καλέεσθε
 νύμφαι· ἴτ' ὦ νύμφαι, ἱερὸν γένος Ὠκεανοῖο,
 1415 δεῖξάτ' ἐλδομένοισιν ἐνωπαδίς ἄμμι φανεῖσαι
 ἢ τινα πετραῖν χύσιν ὕδατος, ἢ τινα γαίης
 ἱερὸν ἐκβλύοντα, θεαί, ῥόον, ὃ ἀπὸ δίψαν
 αἰθομένην ἄμοτον λωφήσομεν. εἰ δέ κεν αὐτίς
 δὴ ποτ' Ἀχαιίδα γαῖαν ἰκώμεθα ναυτιλίησιν,
 1420 δὴ τότε μυρία δῶρα μετὰ πρώτῃσι θεάων
 λοιβάς τ' εἰλαπίνας τε παρέξομεν εὐμένεοντες·'
 ὥς φάτο λισσόμενος ἀδινῇ ὀπί· ταὶ δ' ἐλέαιρον
 ἐγγύθεν ἀχνυμένους· καὶ δὴ χθονὸς ἐξανέτειλαν
 ποῖν πάμπρωτον· ποίης γε μὲν ὑπόθι μακροὶ
 1425 βλάστεον ὄρηκες· μετὰ δ' ἔρνεα τηλεθάοντα
 πολλὸν ὑπὲρ γαίης ὀρθοσταδὸν ἥεζοντο.
 Ἑσπέρη αἴγειρος, πτελέη δ' Ἐρυθίῃς ἔγεντο·
 Λῖγλη δ' ἰτείης ἱερὸν στύπος· ἐκ δέ νυ κείνων
 δενδρέων, οἷαι ἔσαν, τοῖαι πάλιν ἔμπεδον αὐτῶς
 1430 ἐξέφανεν, θάμβος περιώσιον, ἔκφατο δ' Λῖγλη
 μειλίχοις ἐπέεσσιν ἀμειβομένη χατέοντας·
 'ἦ ἄρα δὴ μέγα πάμπαν ἐφ' ὑμετέροισιν ὄνειρα
 δεῦρ' ἔμολεν καμάτοισιν ὁ κύντατος, ὅστις ἀπούρας
 φρουρὸν ὄφιν ζωῆς παγχρύσεια μῆλα θεάων
 1435 οἷχετ' ἀειράμενος· στυγερὸν δ' ἄχος ἄμμι λέλειπται.
 ἦλυθε γὰρ χθιζὸς τις ἀνὴρ ὀλοώτατος ὕβριν
 καὶ δέμας· ὅσσε δέ οἱ βλοσυρῷ ὑπέλαμπε μετώπῳ·
 νηλής· ἀμφὶ δὲ δέρμα πελωρίου ἔστο λέοντος
 ὠμόν, ἀδέμητον· στιβαρὸν δ' ἔχεν ὄζον ἐλαίης
 1440 τόξα τε, τοῖσι πέλωρ τόδ' ἀπέφθισεν ἰοβολήσας.
 ἦλυθε δ' οὖν κάκεϊνος, ἃ τε χθόνα πεζὸς ὁδεύων,
 δίψη καρχαλέος· παίφασσε δὲ τόνδ' ἀνὰ χῶρον,
 ὕδωρ ἐξερέων, τὸ μὲν οὐ ποθὶ μέλλεν ἰδέσθαι.
 ἦδε δέ τις πέτρη Τριτωνίδος ἐγγύθι λίμνης·
 1445 τὴν ὄγ' ἐπιφρασθεῖς, ἣ καὶ θεοῦ ἐννεσίησιν,
 λαῖξ ποδὶ τύπεν ἔνερθε· τὸ δ' ἀθρόον ἔβλυσεν ὕδωρ.
 αὐτὰρ ὄγ' ἄμφω χεῖρε πέδῳ καὶ στέρνον ἐρείσας
 ῥωγάδος ἐκ πέτρης πῖεν ἄσπετον, ὄφρα βαθεῖαν
 νηδύν, φορβάδι ἴσος ἐπιπροπεσών, ἐκορέσθη·'
 ὥς φάτο· τοὶ δ' ἀσπαστὸν ἵνα σφίσι πέφραδεν Αἶγλη
 πίδακα, τῇ θεὸν αἶψα κεχαρμένοι, ὄφρ' ἐπέκυσαν.

ὥς δ' ὁπότε στεινὴν περὶ χηραμὸν εἰλίσσονται
 γειομόροι μύρμηκες ὀμιλαδόν, ἧ ὅτε μυῖαι
 ἄμφ' ὀλίγην μέλιτος γλυκεροῦ λίβα πεπτηυῖαι
 1455 ἄπλητον μεμάασιν ἐπήτριμοι· ὥς τότ' ἀολλεῖς
 πετραίῃ Μινύαι περὶ πίδακι δινεύεσκον.
 καὶ πού τις διεροῖς ἐπὶ χεῖλεσιν εἶπεν ἰανθεῖς:
 'ὦ πόποι, ἧ καὶ νόσφιν ἐὼν ἐσάωσεν ἐταίρους
 Ἡρακλῆς δίψῃ κεκμηότας. ἀλλὰ μιν εἴ πως
 1460 δήοιμεν στείχοντα δι' ἠπείροιο κιόντες,'
 ἧ, καὶ ἀμειβομένων, οἱ τ' ἄρμενοι ἐς τόδε ἔργον,
 ἔκριθεν ἄλλυδις ἄλλος ἐπαῖξας ἐρεῖναιεν.
 ἶχνια γὰρ νυχίοισιν ἐπηλίνδῃτ' ἀνέμοισιν
 κινυμένης ἀμάθου. Βορέας μὲν ὠρμήθησαν
 1465 υἱε δ' ὡ, περὶ γέσσι πεποιθότε. ποσσὶ δὲ κούφοις
 Εὐφημος πίσυνος, Λυγκεὺς γε μὲν ὀξέα τηλοῦ
 ὄσσε βαλεῖν· πέμπτος δὲ μετὰ σφίσιν ἔσσυτο Κάνθος.
 τὸν μὲν ἄρ' αἶσα θεῶν κείνην ὁδὸν ἠγορήε τε
 ὤρσεν, ἴν' Ἡρακλῆος ἀπληγέως πεπύθοιτο,
 1470 Εἰλατίδην Πολύφημον ὅπῃ λίπε· μέμβλετο γάρ οἱ
 οὗ ἔθεν ἄμφ' ἐτάριοιο μεταλλῆσαι τὰ ἕκαστα.
 ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν οὖν Μυσοῖσιν ἐπικλεῖς ἄστὺ πολίσσας
 νόστου κηδοσύνησιν ἔβη διζήμενος ργῶ
 τῆλε δι' ἠπείροιο· τέως δ' ἐζέκετο γαῖαν
 1475 ἀγχιάλων Χαλύβων· τόθι μιν καὶ Μοῖρ' ἐδάμασσαν.
 καὶ οἱ ὑπὸ βλωθρὴν ἀχερωίδα σῆμα τέτυκται
 τυτθὸν ἄλως προπάροιθεν. ἀτὰρ τότε γ' Ἡρακλῆα
 μῦθον ἀπειρεσίης τηλοῦ χθονὸς εἶσατο Λυγκεὺς
 τὼς ιδέειν, ὥς τίς τε νέφ' ἐνὶ ἡματι μήνην
 1480 ἧ ἶδεν, ἧ ἐδόκησεν ἐπαχλύουσιν ιδέσθαι.
 ἐς δ' ἐτάρους ἀνίων μυθήσατο, μή μιν ἔτ' ἄλλον
 μαστῆρα στείχοντα κιχησέμεν· οἱ δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ
 ἦλυθον, Εὐφημός τε πόδας ταχὺς υἱέ τε δοῖω
 Θρηκίου Βορέω, μεταμώνια μοχθήσαντε.
 1485 Κάνθε, σὲ δ' οὐλόμεναι Λιβύῃ ἐνὶ Κῆρῃς ἔλοντο.
 πάεσι φερβομένοισι συνήντεες· εἶπετο δ' ἀνὴρ
 αὐλίτης, ὃ σ' ἐὼν μῆλων πέρι, τόφρ' ἐτάριοισιν
 δευομένοις κομίσειας, ἀλεξόμενος κατέπεφνεν
 λαῖ βαλὼν· ἐπεὶ οὐ μὲν ἀφαιρότερός γ' ἐτέτυκτο,
 1490 νίωνος Φοίβοιο Λυκωρείοιο Κάφαυρος
 κούρης τ' αἰδοίης Ἀκακαλλίδος, ἣν ποτε Μίνως
 ἐς Αἰβύην ἀπένασσε θεοῦ βαρὺ κῦμα φέρουσαν,
 θυγατέρα σφετέρην· ἧ δ' ἀγλαὸν υἱέα Φοῖβω
 τίκτεν, ὃν Ἀμφίθεμιν Γαράμαντά τε κικλήσκουσιν.
 1495 Ἀμφίθεμις δ' ἄρ' ἔπειτα μίγῃ Τριτωνίδι νύμφῃ:

ἥ δ' ἄρα οἱ Νασάμωνα τέκεν κρατερόν τε Κάφαυρον,
 ὃς τότε Κάνθον ἔπεφνεν ἐπὶ ῥήνεσσιν ἐοῖσιν.
 οὐδ' ὄγ' ἀριστήων χαλεπὰς ἠλεύατο χεῖρας,
 ὥς μάθον οἷον ἔρεξε. νέκυν δ' ἀνάειραν ὅπισσιν
 1500 πευθόμενοι Μινύαι, γαίῃ δ' ἐνὶ ταρχύσαντο
 μυρόμενοι: τὰ δὲ μῆλα μετὰ σφέας οἶγ' ἐκόμισσαν.
 ἔνθα καὶ Ἀμπυκίδην αὐτῷ ἐνὶ ἡματι Μόψον
 νηλεῖς ἔλε πότμος: ἀδευκέα δ' οὐ φύγεν αἶσαν
 μαντοσύναις: οὐ γάρ τις ἀποτροπὴ θανάτοιο.
 1505 κείτο δ' ἐπὶ ψαμάθοισι μεσημβρινὸν ἡμαρ ἀλύσκων
 δεινὸς ὄφιν, νωθὴς μὲν ἐκὼν ἀέκοντα χαλέψαι:
 οὐδ' ἂν ὑποτρέσσαντος ἐνωπαδὶς αἰζείεν.
 ἀλλὰ μὲν ᾧ τὰ πρῶτα μελάγχμιον ἰὸν ἐνείη
 ζώντων, ὅσα γαῖα φερέσβιος ἔμπνοα βόσκει,
 1510 οὐδ' ὅποσον πῆχυν ἔς Ἄϊδα γίγνεται οἶμος,
 οὐδ' εἰ Παιήων, εἴ μοι θέμις ἀμπαδὸν εἰπεῖν,
 φαρμάσσοι, ὅτε μῦθον ἐνιχρίμψῃσιν ὁδοῦσιν.
 εὖτε γὰρ ἰσόθεος Λιβύην ὑπερέπτατο Περσεὺς
 Εὐρυμέδων — καὶ γὰρ τὸ κάλεσκέ μιν οὔνομα μήτηρ —
 1515 Γοργόνος ἀρτίτομον κεφαλὴν βασιλῆι κομίζων,
 ὅσσαι κυανέου στάγες αἵματος οὐδας ἔκοντο,
 αἱ πᾶσαι κείνων ὀφίων γένος ἐβλάστησαν.
 τῷ δ' ἄκρην ἐπ' ἄκανθαν ἐνεστηρίξατο Μόψος
 λαῖον ἐπιπροφέρων ταρσὸν ποδός: αὐτὰρ ὁ μέσσην
 1520 κερκίδα καὶ μυῶνα, πέριξ ὀδύνησιν ἐλιχθεῖς,
 σάρκα δακῶν ἐχάραξεν. ἀτὰρ Μῆδεια καὶ ἄλλαι
 ἔτρεσαν ἀμφίπολοι: ὁ δὲ φοίνιον ἔλκος ἄφασσεν
 θαρσαλέως, ἔνεκ' οὐ μιν ὑπέρβιον ἄλγος ἔτειρεν.
 σχέτλιος: ἥ τέ οἱ ἤδη ὑπὸ χροῖ δύετο κῶμα
 1525 λυσιμελές, πολλὴ δὲ κατ' ὀφθαλμῶν χέετ' ἀχλὺς.
 αὐτίκα δὲ κλῖνας δαπέδῳ βεβαρηότα γυῖα
 ψύχεται ἀμηχανίῃ: ἔταροι δὲ μιν ἀμπαγέροντο
 ἥρως τ' Αἰσονίδης, ἀδινῇ περιθαμβέες ἄτη.
 οὐδὲ μὲν οὐδ' ἐπὶ τυτθὸν ἀποφθίμενός περ ἔμελλεν
 1530 κεῖσθαι ὑπ' ἡελίῳ. πύθεσκε γὰρ ἔνδοθι σάρκας
 ἰὸς ἄφαρ, μυδόωσα δ' ἀπὸ χροὸς ἔρρεε λάχνη.
 αἶψα δὲ χαλκείῃσι βαθὺν τάφον ἐξελάχαινον
 ἐσσυμένως μακέλησιν: ἐμοιρήσαντο δὲ χαίτας
 αὐτοὶ ὁμῶς κοῦραί τε, νέκυν ἐλεεινὰ παθόντα
 1535 μυρόμενοι: τρεῖς δ' ἀμφὶ σὺν ἔντεσι δινηθέντες
 εὖ κτερέων ἴσχοντα, χυτὴν ἐπὶ γαῖαν ἔθεντο.
 ἀλλ' ὅτε δὴ ῥ' ἐπὶ νηὸς ἔβαν, πρήσοντος ἀήτεω
 ἅμ' ἐλάγος νοτίοιο, πόρους τ' ἀπετεκμήραντο
 λίμνης ἐκπρομολεῖν Τριτωνίδος, οὐτίνα μῆτιν

1540 δὴν ἔχον, ἀφραδέως δὲ πανημέριοι φορέοντο.
 ὥς δὲ δράκων σκολιὴν εἰλιγμένος ἔρχεται οἶμον,
 εὖτε μιν ὀξύτατον θάλλει σέλας ἡελίοιο·
 ῥοίζω δ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα κάρη στρέφει, ἐν δέ οἱ ὅσσε
 σπινθαρύγεσσι πυρὸς ἐναλίγκια μαιμῶντι
 1545 λάμπεται, ὄφρα μυχόνδε διὰ ῥωχμοῖο δύηται·
 ὧς Ἀργὼ λίμνης στόμα ναύπορον ἐξερέουσα
 ἀμφεπόλει διηναῖον ἐπὶ χρόνον. αὐτίκα δ' Ὀρφεὺς
 κέκλετ' Ἀπόλλωνος τρίποδα μέγαν ἔκτοθι νηὸς
 δαίμοσιν ἐγγενέταις νόστῳ ἐπὶ μεῖλια θέσθαι.
 1550 καὶ τοὶ μὲν Φοῖβου κτέρας ἴδρουον ἐν χθονὶ βάντες·
 τοῖσιν δ' αἰζῆν' ἐναλίγκιος ἀντεβόλησεν
 τρίτων εὐρυβίης, γαίης δ' ἀνὰ βῶλον αἰέρας
 ξεῖνι' ἀριστήεσσι προΐσχετο, φώνησέν τε·
 'Δέχθε, φίλοι· ἐπεὶ οὐ περιώσιον ἐγγυαλίζαι
 1555 ἐνθάδε νῦν πάρ' ἐμοὶ ξεινήιον ἀντομένοισιν.
 εἰ δέ τι τῆσδε πόρους μαίεσθ' ἄλός, οἷά τε πολλὰ
 ἄνθρωποι χατέουσιν ἐπ' ἄλλοδαπῇ περόωντες,
 ἐξερέω. δὴ γάρ με πατὴρ ἐπιίστορα πόντου
 θῆκε Ποσειδάων τοῦδ' ἔμμεναι. αὐτὰρ ἀνάσσω
 1560 παρραλίας, εἰ δὴ τιν' ἀκούετε νόσφιν ἐόντες
 Εὐρύπυλον Λιβύη θηροτρόφῳ ἐγγεγαῶτα.'
 ὧς ἡῦδα· πρόφρων δ' ὑπερέσχεθε βῶλακι χεῖρας
 Εὐφημος, καὶ τοῖα παραβλήδην προσέειπεν·
 'Ἀπίδα καὶ πέλαγος Μινώιον εἴ νύ που, ἦρως,
 1565 ἐξεδάης, νημερτὲς ἀνειρομένοισιν ἐνισπε.
 δεῦρο γὰρ οὐκ ἐθέλοντες ἰκάνομεν, ἀλλὰ βαρεῖαις
 κρίμψαντες γαίης ἐπὶ πείρασι τῆσδε θυέλλαις
 νῆα μεταχρονίην ἐκομίσσαμεν ἐς τόδε λίμνης
 χεῦμα δι' ἠπείρου βεβαρημένοι· οὐδέ τι ἴδμεν,
 1570 πῇ πλόος ἐξανέχει Πελοπηίδα γαῖαν ἰκέσθαι.'
 ὧς ἄρ' ἔφη· ὁ δὲ χεῖρα τανύσσατο, δεῖξε δ' ἄπωθεν
 φωνήσας πόντον τε καὶ ἀγχιβαθὲς στόμα λίμνης·
 'κείνη μὲν πόντοιο διήλυσις, ἔνθα μάλιστα
 βένθος ἀκίνητον μελανεῖ· ἐκάτερθε δὲ λευκαὶ
 1575 ῥηγμῖνες φρίσσουσι διανυγέες· ἡ δὲ μεσηγνὺ
 ῥηγμίνων στενὴν τελέθει ὁδὸς ἐκτὸς ἐλάσσαι.
 κεῖνο δ' ὑπὲριον θείην Πελοπηίδα γαῖαν
 εἰσανέχει πέλαγος Κρήτης ὕπερ· ἀλλ' ἐπὶ χειρὸς
 δεξιτερῆς, λίμνηθεν ὅτ' εἰς ἄλός οἶδμα βάλητε,
 1580 τόφρ' αὐτὴν παρὰ χέρσον ἐεργμένοι ἰθύνεσθε,
 ἔστ' ἂν ἄνω τείνησι· περιρρήδην δ' ἐτέρωσε
 κλινομένης χέρσοιο, τότε πλόος ὕμμιν ἀπήμων
 ἀγκῶνος τέτατ' ἰθὺς ἀπὸ προύχοντος ἰοῦσιν.

ἀλλ' ἵτε γηθόσυνοι, καμάτοιο δὲ μήτις ἀνὴρ
 1585 γιγνέσθω, νεότητι κεκασμένα γυῖα μογῆσαι.
 Ἴσκεν εὐφρονέων· οἱ δ' αἶψ' ἐπὶ νηὸς ἔβησαν
 λίμνης ἐκπρομολεῖν λελητημένοι εἰρεσίησιν.
 καὶ δὴ ἐπιπρονέοντο μεμαότες· αὐτὰρ ὁ τείως
 τρίτων ἀνθέμενος τρίποδα μέγαν, εἷσατο λίμνην
 1590 εἰσβαίνειν· μετὰ δ' οὔτις ἐσέδρακεν, οἷον ἄφαντος
 αὐτῷ σὺν τρίποδι σχεδὸν ἔπλετο. τοῖσι δ' ἰάνθη
 θυμός, ὃ δὴ μακάρων τις ἐναΐσιμος ἀντεβόλησεν.
 καὶ ῥά οἱ Αἰσονίδην μῆλων ὃ τι φέρτατον ἄλλων
 ἦνωγον ῥέξαι καὶ ἐπευφημῆσαι ἐλόντα.
 1595 αἶψα δ' ὄγ' ἐσσυμένως ἐκρίνατο, καὶ μιν ἀείρας
 σφάζε κατὰ πρύμνης, ἐπὶ δ' ἔννεπεν εὐχολῆσιν·
 'δαῖμον, ὅτις λίμνης ἐπὶ πείρασι τῆσδ' ἐφάνθης,
 εἴτε σέγε Τρίτων', ἄλιον τέρας, εἴτε σε Φόρκυν,
 ἢ Νηρηᾶ θύγατρες ἐπικλείουσ' ἄλοσύδναι,
 1600 ἴλασθι, καὶ νόστοιο τέλος θυμηδὲς ὅπαζε.'
 ἦ ῥ', ἅμα δ' εὐχολῆσιν ἐς ὕδατα λαιμοτομήσας
 ἦκε κατὰ πρύμνης· ὁ δὲ βένθεος ἐξεφάνθη
 τοῖος ἐὼν, οἷός περ ἐτήτυμος ἦεν ιδέσθαι.
 ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἀνὴρ θοὸν ἵππον ἐς εὐρέα κύκλον ἀγῶνος
 1605 στέλλῃ, ὀρεξάμενος λασίης εὐπειθέα χαίτης,
 εἶθαρ ἐπιτροχάων, ὁ δ' ἐπ' αὐχένι γαῦρος ἀερθεὶς
 ἔσπεται, ἀργινόνετα δ' ἐνὶ στομάτεσσι χαλινὰ
 ἀμφὶς ὀδακτάζοντι παραβλήδην κροτέονται·
 ὥς ὄγ' ἐπισχόμενος γλαφυρῆς ὀλκήιον Ἀργοῦς
 1610 ἦγ' ἄλαδε προτέρωσε. δέμας δέ οἱ ἐξ ὑπάτοιο
 κράτος, ἀμφὶ τε νῶτα καὶ ἰζύας ἔστ' ἐπὶ νηδὺν
 ἀντικρὺ μακάρεσσι φυὴν ἔκπαγλον ἔϊκτο·
 αὐτὰρ ὑπαὶ λαγόνων δίκραιρά οἱ ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα
 κήτεος ὀλκαῖη μηκύνετο· κόπτε δ' ἀκάνθαις
 1615 ἄκρον ὕδωρ, αἶ τε σκολιοῖς ἐπινειόθι κέντροις
 μήνης ὥς κεράεσσιν ἐειδόμεναι διχόωντο.
 τόφρα δ' ἄγεν, τείως μιν ἐπιπροέηκε θαλάσση
 νισσομένην· δὴ δ' αἶψα μέγαν βυθόν· οἱ δ' ὁμάδησαν
 ἥρωες, τέρας αἰνὸν ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἰδόντες.
 1620 ἔνθα μὲν Ἀργῶς τε λιμὴν καὶ σήματα νηὸς
 ἠδὲ Ποσειδάωνος ἰδὲ Τρίτωνος ἕασιν
 βωμοί· ἐπεὶ κεῖν' ἦμαρ ἐπέσχεθον. αὐτὰρ ἐς ἡδὲ
 λαΐφεσι πεπταμένοις αὐτὴν ἐπὶ δεξί' ἔχοντες
 γαῖαν ἐρημαῖην, πνοιῇ ζεφύροιο θέεσκον.
 1625 ἦρι δ' ἔπειτ' ἀγκῶνά θ' ὁμοῦ μυχάτην τε θάλασσαν
 κεκλιμένην ἀγκῶνος ὕπερ προύχοντος ἴδοντο.
 ἀντίκα δὲ ζέφυρος μὲν ἐλώφειν, ἥλυθε δ' αὖρη

ἀργέσται νότου· κεχάροντο δὲ θυμὸν ἰωῆ.
 ἥμος δ' ἡέλιος μὲν ἔδυ, ἀνὰ δ' ἥλυθεν ἀστήρ
 1630 αὐλῖος, ὅς τ' ἀνέπαυσεν οἰζυροῦς ἀροτῆρας,
 δὴ τότε ἔπειτ' ἀνέμοιο κελαινῇ νυκτὶ λιπόντος
 ἰστία λυσάμενοι περιμήκεά τε κλίναντες
 ἰστόν, ἐυξέστησιν ἐπερρώοντ' ἐλάτῃσιν
 παννύχιοι καὶ ἐπ' ἡμαρ, ἐπ' ἡματι δ' αὖτις ἰοῦσαν
 1635 νύχθ' ἐτέρην. ὑπέδεκτο δ' ἀπόπροθι παιπαλόεσσα
 Κάρπαθος· ἔνθεν δ' οἶγε περαιώσσεσθαι ἔμελλον
 Κρήτην, ἥ τ' ἄλλων ὑπερέπλετο εἰν ἀλὶ νήσων.
 τοὺς δὲ Τάλως χάλκειος, ἀπὸ στιβαροῦ σκοπέλοιο
 ῥηγνύμενος πέτρας, εἶργε χθονὶ πείσματ' ἀνάσαι,
 1640 Δικταίην ὄρμοιο κατερχομένους ἐπιωγῆν·
 τὸν μὲν χαλκείης μελιγενέων ἀνθρώπων
 ῥίζης λοιπὸν ἔοντα μετ' ἀνδράσιν ἡμιθέοισιν
 Εὐρώπῃ Κρονίδης νήσου πόρεν ἔμμεναι σῦρον,
 τρὶς περὶ χαλκείοις Κρήτην ποσὶ δινεύοντα.
 1645 ἀλλ' ἦτοι τὸ μὲν ἄλλο δέμας καὶ γυῖα τέτυκτο
 χάλκεος ἡδ' ἄρρηκτος· ὑπαὶ δέ οἱ ἔσκε τένοντος
 σύριγξ αἱματόεσσα κατὰ σφυρόν· αὐτὰρ ὃ τ' ἦγχε
 λεπτὸς ὕμην ζωῆς ἔχε πείρατα καὶ θανάτοιο.
 οἱ δέ, δὴ μάλα περ δεδμημένοι, αἶψ' ἀπὸ χέρσου
 1650 νῆα περιδδείσαντες ἀνακρούεσκον ἑρετμοῖς.
 καὶ νῦ κ' ἐπισμυγεῶς Κρήτης ἐκὰς ἡέρθησαν,
 ἀμφοτέρων δίψῃ τε καὶ ἄλγεσι μοχθίζοντες,
 εἰ μὴ σφιν Μήδεια λιαζομένοις ἀγόρευσεν·
 'κέκλυτέ μεν. μούνη γὰρ οἶομαι ὕμμι δαμάσσειν
 1655 ἄνδρα τόν, ὅστις ὁδ' ἐστί, καὶ εἰ παγχάλκεον ἴσχει
 ὄν δέμας, ὁπότε μὴ οἱ ἐπ' ἀκάματος πέλοι αἰὼν.
 ἀλλ' ἔχετ' αὐτοῦ νῆα θελήμονες ἐκτὸς ἐρωῆς
 πετράων, εἴως κεν ἐμοὶ εἴξειε δαμῆναι.'
 ὧς ἄρ' ἔφη· καὶ τοὶ μὲν ὑπὲκ βελέων ἐρύσαντο
 1660 νῆ' ἐπ' ἑρετμοῖσιν, δεδοκήμενοι ἦντινα ῥέξει
 μῆτιν ἀνωίστως· ἡ δὲ πτύχα πορφυρέοιο
 προσχομένη πέπλοιο παρειάων ἐκάτερθεν
 βῆσάτ' ἐπ' ἱκρίοφιν· χειρὸς δὲ ἐχειρὶ μεμαρπῶς
 Αἰσονίδης ἐκόμιζε διὰ κληῖδας ἰοῦσαν.
 1665 ἔνθα δ' αἰοιδῆσιν μελίσσεται, μέλπε δὲ Κῆρας
 θυμοβόρους, Αἶδαο θεὰς κύνας, αἷ περὶ πᾶσαν
 ἡέρα δινεύουσαι ἐπὶ ζωοῖσιν ἄγονται.
 τὰς γουναζομένη τρὶς μὲν παρεκέκλετ' αἰοιδῆς,
 τρὶς δὲ λιταῖς· θεμένη δὲ κακὸν νόον, ἐχθοδοποῖσιν
 1670 ὄμμασι χαλκείοιο Τάλω ἐμέγηρεν ὀπωπᾶς·
 λευγαλέον δ' ἐπὶ οἱ πρῆεν χόλον, ἐκ δ' αἰδηλα

δείκῃλα προΐαλλον, ἐπιζάφελον κοτέουσα.
 Ζεῦ πάτερ, ἧ μέγα δὴ μοι ἐνὶ φρεσὶ θάμβος ἄηται,
 εἰ δὴ μὴ νούσοισι τυπῆσὶ τε μοῦνον ὄλεθρος
 1675 ἀντιάει, καὶ δὴ τις ἀπόπροθεν ἄμμε χαλέπτει.
 ὥς ὄγε χάλκειός περ ἐὼν ὑπόειξε δαμῆναι
 Μηδείης βρίμη πολυφαρμάκου. ἂν δὲ βαρείας
 ὀγλίζων λάιγγας, ἐρυκέμεν ὄρμον ἰκέσθαι.
 πετραίῳ στόνυχι χρίμψε σφυρόν· ἐκ δὲ οἱ ἰχῶρ
 1680 τηκομένῳ ἵκελος μολίβῳ ῥέεν· οὐδ' ἔτι δηρὸν
 εἰστήκει προβλήτος ἐπεμβεβαῶς σκοπέλοιο.
 ἀλλ' ὥς τίς τ' ἐν ὄρεσσι πελωρίῃ ὑψόθι πεῦκη,
 τήν τε θοοῖς πελέκεσσιν ἔθ' ἡμιπλήγα λιπόντες
 ὕλοτόμοι δρυμοῖο κατήλυθον· ἡ δ' ὑπὸ νυκτὶ
 1685 ῥιπῆσιν μὲν πρῶτα τινάσσεται, ὕστερον αὐτε
 πυρμόθεν ἐξαγεῖσα κατήριπεν· ὥς ὄγε ποσσὶν
 ἀκαμάτοις τείως μὲν ἐπισταδὸν ἦωρεῖτο,
 ὕστερον αὐτ' ἀμενηνὸς ἀπείρωνι κάππεσε δούπῳ.
 κεῖνο μὲν οὖν Κρήτῃ ἐνὶ δὴ κνέφας ἠυλίζοντο
 1690 ἥρωες· μετὰ δ' οἷγε νέον φαέθουσαν ἐς ἡῶ
 ἱρὸν Ἀθηναίης Μινωίδος ἰδρύσαντο,
 ὕδωρ τ' εἰσαφύσαντο καὶ εἰσέβαν, ὥς κεν ἐρετμοῖς
 παμπρώτιστα βάλοιεν ὑπὲρ Σαλμωνίδος ἄκρης.
 Λυτικά δὲ Κρηταῖον ὑπὲρ μέγα λαῖτμα θεόντας
 1695 νῦξ ἐφόβει, τήνπερ τε κατουλάδα κικλήσκουσιν·
 νύκτ' ὀλοήν οὐκ ἄστρα διύσχανεν, οὐκ ἀμαρυγαὶ
 μήνης· οὐρανόθεν δὲ μέλαν χάος, ἡέ τις ἄλλη
 ὠρώρει σκοτίῃ μυχάτων ἀνιοῦσα βερέθρων.
 αὐτοὶ δ', εἴτ' Αἰδη, εἴθ' ὕδασιν ἐμφορέοντο,
 1700 ἡεῖδεν οὐδ' ὅσσον· ἐπέτρεψαν δὲ θαλάσση
 νόστον, ἀμηχανέοντες, ὅπῃ φέροι. αὐτὰρ Ἴησων
 χεῖρας ἀνασχόμενος μεγάλη ὀπί Φοῖβον αὐτεῖ,
 ῥύσασθαι καλέων· κατὰ δ' ἔρρεεν ἀσχαλῶντι
 δάκρυα· πολλὰ δὲ Πυθοῖ ὑπέσχετο, πολλὰ δ' Ἀμύκλαις,
 1705 πολλὰ δ' ἐς Ὀρτυγίην ἀπερείσια δῶρα κομίσειν.
 Λητοῖδῃ, τὴν δὲ κατ' οὐρανοῦ ἵκεο πέτρας
 ῥίμφα Μελαντίους ἀριήκοος, αἷ τ' ἐνὶ πόντῳ
 ἦνται· δοιάων δὲ μιῆς ἐφύπερθεν ὀρούσας,
 δεξιτερῇ χρύσειον ἀνέσχεθες ὑψόθι τόξον·
 1710 μαρμαρέην δ' ἀπέλαμψε βιὸς περὶ πάντοθεν αἶγλιν.
 τοῖσι δὲ τις Σποράδων βαιῇ ἀπὸ τόφρ' ἐφάνθη
 νῆσος ἰδεῖν, ὀλίγης Ἰππουρίδος ἀντία νήσου,
 ἐνθ' εὐνὰς ἐβάλοντο καὶ ἔσχεθον· αὐτίκα δ' Ἠὼς
 φέγγεν ἀνερχομένη· τοὶ δ' ἀγλαὸν Ἀπόλλωνι
 1715 ἄλσει ἐνὶ σκιερῷ τέμενος σκιάεντά τε βωμόν

ποίεον, Αἰγλήτην μὲν ἐνσκόπου εἵνεκεν αἴγλης
 Φοῖβον κεκλόμενοι· Ἀνάφην δέ τε λισσάδα νῆσον
 ἴσκον, ὃ δὴ Φοῖβός μιν ἀτυζομένοις ἀνέφηνεν.
 ῥέζον δ' ὅσσα περ ἄνδρες ἐρημαίῃ ἐνὶ ῥέζειν
 1720 ἀκτῇ ἐφοπλίσσειαν· ὃ δὴ σφεας ὁππότε δαλοῖς
 ὕδωρ αἰθομένοισιν ἐπιλλείβοντας ἴδοντο
 Μηδείης δμωαὶ Φαιηκίδες, οὐκέτ' ἔπειτα
 ἴσχειν ἐν στήθεσσι γέλω σθένον, οἷα θαμειαῖς
 αἰὲν ἐν Ἀλκινόοιο βοοκτασίας ὁρώωσαι.
 1725 τὰς δ' αἰσχροῖς ἥρωες ἐπεστοβέεσκον ἔπεσιν
 χλεύῃ γηθόσυνοι· γλυκερὴ δ' ἀνεδαίετο τοῖσιν
 κερτομὴ καὶ νεῖκος ἐπεσβόλον. ἐκ δέ νυ κείνης
 μολπῆς ἡρώων νήσῳ ἐνὶ τοῖα γυναιῖκες
 ἀνδράσι δηριόωνται, ὅτ' Ἀπόλλωνα θηηλαῖς
 1730 Αἰγλήτην Ἀνάφης τιμήορον ἰλάσκωνται.
 ἀλλ' ὅτε δὴ κάκειθεν ὑπεύδεια πείσματ' ἔλυσαν,
 μνήσατ' ἔπειτ' Εὐφημος ὀνειράτος ἐννυχίοιο,
 ἄζόμενος Μαΐης ὑἷα κλυτόν. εἶσατο γάρ οἱ
 δαιμονίῃ βῶλαξ ἐπιμάστιος ᾧ ἐν ἀγοστῷ
 1735 ἄρδεσθαι λευκῇσιν ὑπαὶ λιβάδεσσι γάλακτος,
 ἐκ δέ γυνὴ βῶλοιο πέλειν ὀλίγης περ ἐούσης
 παρθενικῇ ἱκέλη· μίχθη δέ οἱ ἐν φιλότῃ
 ἄσχετον ἱμερθεῖς· ὀλοφύρετο δ' ἥύτε κούρην
 ζευξάμενος, τήν τ' αὐτὸς ἐῷ ἀτίταλλε γάλακτι·
 1740 ἡ δέ ἐ μείλιχίοισι παρηγορέεσκ' ἐπέεσσιν·
 'Τρίτωνος γένος εἰμί, τεῶν τροφός, ᾧ φίλε, παίδων,
 οὐ κούρη· τρίτων γὰρ ἐμοὶ Λιβύῃ τε τοκῆες.
 ἀλλὰ με Νηρῆος παρακάτθεο παρθενικῇσιν
 ἄμ πέλαγος ναίειν Ἀνάφης σχεδόν· εἴμι δ' ἐς αὐγὰς
 1745 ἡελίου μετόπισθε, τεοῖς νεπόδεσσιν ἐτοίμη.'
 τῷ δ' ἄρ' ἐπὶ μνήσῃν κραδίῃ βάλεν, ἔκ τ' ὀνόμηνεν
 Αἰσονίδῃ· ὃ δ' ἔπειτα θεοπροπίας Ἐκάτοιο
 θυμῷ πεμπάζων ἀνενεῖκατο φώνησέν τε·
 'ὦ πέπον, ἦ μέγα δὴ δε καὶ ἀγλαὸν ἔμμορε κῦδος.
 1750 βῶλακα γὰρ τεύξουσι θεοὶ πόντονδε βαλόντι
 νῆσον, ἣν ὀπλότεροι παίδων δέθεν ἐννάσσονται
 παῖδες· ἐπεὶ Τρίτων ξεινήιον ἐγγυάλιξεν
 τήνδε τοι ἡπείροιο Λιβυστίδος. οὐ νύ τις ἄλλος
 ἀθανάτων, ἢ κείνος, ὃ μιν πόρεν ἀντιβολήσας.'
 1755 ὧς ἔφατ'· οὐδ' ἁλίωσεν ὑπόκρισιν Αἰσονίδαο
 Εὐφημος· βῶλον δέ, θεοπροπίῃσιν ἱανθείς,
 ἤκεν ὑποβρυχίην. τῆς δ' ἔκτοθι νῆσος ἀέρθη
 καλλίστη, παίδων ἱερὴ τροφὸς Εὐφήμοιο,
 οἱ πρὶν μὲν ποτε δὴ Σιντηίδα Λῆμνον ἔναιον,

1760 Λήμνου τ' ἐξελαθέντες ὑπ' ἀνδράσι Τυρσηνοῖσιν
Σπάρτην εἰσαφίκανον ἐφέστιοι: ἐκ δὲ λιπόντας
Σπάρτην Αὐτεσίωνος εὖς πάις ἤγαγε Θήρας
καλλίστην ἐπὶ νῆσον, ἀμείψατο δ' οὖνομα Θήρης
ἐξ ἔθεν. ἀλλὰ τὰ μὲν μετόπιν γένετ' Εὐφήμοιο.

1765 κείθεν δ' ἀπτερέως διὰ μυρίον οἶδμα λιπόντες
Αἰγίνης ἀκτῆσιν ἐπέσχεθον: αἶψα δὲ τοίγε
ὑδρείης πέρι δῆριν ἀμεμφέα δηρίσαντο,
ὅς κεν ἀφυσσάμενος φθαίῃ μετὰ νῆάδ' ἰκέσθαι.
ἄμφθ γὰρ χρειώ τε καὶ ἄσπετος οὔρος ἔπειγεν.

1770 ἔνθ' ἔτι νῦν πλήθοντας ἐπωμαδὸν ἀμφοφορῆας
ἀνθέμενοι κούφοισιν ἄφαρ κατ' ἀγῶνα πόδεσσιν
κοῦροι Μυρμιδόνων νίκης πέρι δηριόωνται.

Ἴλατ' ἀριστήων μακάρων γένος: αἶδε δ' αἰοῖται
εἰς ἔτος ἐξ ἔτεος γλυκερώτεραι εἶεν αἰεῖν

1775 ἀνθρώποις. ἤδη γὰρ ἐπὶ κλυτὰ πείραθ' ἰκάνω
ὑμετέρων καμάτων: ἐπεὶ οὐ νῦν τις ὕμνῳ ἄεθλος
αὖτις ἀπ' Αἰγίνῃθεν ἀνερχομένοισιν ἐτύχθη,
οὔτ' ἀνέμων ἐριῶλαι ἐνέσταθεν: ἀλλὰ ἔκκληοι
γαῖαν Κεκροπίην παρά τ' Αὐλῖδα μετρήσαντες

1780 Εὐβοίῃς ἐντοσθεν Ὀπούντιά τ' ἄστεα Λοκρῶν
ἀσπασίως ἀκτὰς Παγασηίδας εἰσαπέβητε.

The Dual Text



Site of the Colossus of Rhodes — sources differ about Apollonius' connection to Rhodes, though it appears in later years he moved to the island from Alexandria and was known there as a famous teacher.

DUAL GREEK AND ENGLISH TEXT



Translated by R. C. Seaton

In this section, readers can view a section by section text of Apollonius' epic poem, alternating between the original Greek and Seaton's English translation.

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BOOK I.

ἀρχόμενος σέο, Φοῖβε, παλαιγενέων κλέα φωτῶν
μνήσομαι, οἳ Πόντοιο κατὰ στόμα καὶ διὰ πέτρας
Κυανέας βασιλῆος ἐφημοσύνη Πελίαο
χρύσειον μετὰ κῶας ἐύζυγον ἤλασαν Ἀργῶ.

[1] Beginning with thee, O Phoebus, I will recount the famous deeds of men of old, who, at the behest of King Pelias, down through the mouth of Pontus and between the Cyanean rocks, sped well-benched Argo in quest of the golden fleece.

5 τοῖν γὰρ Πελὶς φάτιν ἔκλυεν, ὥς μιν ὀπίσσω
μοῖρα μένει στυγερή, τοῦδ' ἀνέρος, ὄντιν' ἴδοιτο
δημόθεν οἰοπέδιλον, ὑπ' ἐννεσίησι δαμῆναι.
δηρὸν δ' οὐ μετέπειτα τειν κατὰ βάζιν Ἴησων
χειμερίοιο ῥέεθρα κιὼν διὰ ποσσὶν Ἀναύρου
10 ἄλλο μὲν ἐξεσάωσεν ὑπ' ἰλύος, ἄλλο δ' ἐνερθεν
κάλλιπεν αὐθι πέδιλον ἐνισχόμενον προχοῇσιν.
ἵκετο δ' ἐς Πελίην αὐτοσχεδὸν ἀντιβολήσων
εἰλαπίνης, ἣν πατρὶ Ποσειδάωνι καὶ ἄλλοις
ῥέζε θεοῖς, Ἥρης δὲ Πελασγίδος οὐκ ἀλέγιζεν.
15 αἶψα δὲ τόνγ' ἐσιδὼν ἐφράσσατο, καὶ οἱ ἄεθλον
ἔντυε ναυτιλίας πολυκηδέος, ὄφρ' ἐνὶ πόντῳ
ἦε καὶ ἀλλοδαποῖσι μετ' ἀνδράσι νόστον ὀλέσση.

[5] Such was the oracle that Pelias heard, that a hateful doom awaited him to be slain at the prompting of the man whom he should see coming forth from the people with but one sandal. And no long time after, in accordance with that true report, Jason crossed the stream of wintry Anaurus on foot, and saved one sandal from the mire, but the other he left in the depths held back by the flood. And straightway he came to Pelias to share the banquet which the king was offering to his father Poseidon and the rest of the gods, though he paid no honour to Pelasgian Hera. Quickly the king saw him and pondered, and devised for him the toil of a troublous voyage, in order that on the sea or among strangers he might lose his home-return.

νῆα μὲν οὖν οἱ πρόσθεν ἐπικλείουσιν ἄοιδοι
Ἄργον Ἀθηναίης καμέειν ὑποθημοσύνησιν.
20 νῦν δ' ἂν ἐγὼ γενεήν τε καὶ οὐνομα μυθησαίμην
ἡρώων, δολιχῆς τε πόρους ἁλός, ὅσσα τ' ἔρεξαν
πλαζόμενοι: Μοῦσαι δ' ὑποφήτορες εἶεν ἄοιδῆς.

[18] The ship, as former bards relate, Argus wrought by the guidance of Athena. But now I will tell the lineage and the names of the heroes, and of the

long sea-paths and the deeds they wrought in their wanderings; may the Muses be the inspirers of my song!

πρῶτά νυν Ὀρφεὺς μνησώμεθα, τὸν ῥά ποτ' αὐτὴ
Καλλιόπῃ Θρηίκι φατίζεται εὐνηθεῖσα
25 Οἰάγρῳ σκοπιῆς Πιμπληίδος ἄγχι τεκέσθαι
αὐτὰρ τόνγ' ἐνέπουσιν ἀτειρέας οὔρεσι πέτρας
θέλξει αἰοιδάων ἐνοπῇ ποταμῶν τε ῥέεθρα.
φηγοὶ δ' ἀγριάδες, κείνης ἔτι σήματα μολπῆς,
ἀκτῆς Θρηικίης Ζώνης ἔπι τηλεθόωσαι
30 ἐξείης στιχόωσιν ἐπήτριμοι, ἃς ὄγ' ἐπιπρὸ
θελγομένας φόρμιγγι κατήγαγε Πιερὶήθεν.
Ὀρφέα μὲν δὴ τοῖον ἔδῶν ἐπαρωγὸν ἀέθλων
Αἰσονίδης Χείρωνος ἐφημοσύνησι πιθήσας
δέξατο, Πιερὶή Βιστωνίδι κοιρανέοντα.

[23] First then let us name Orpheus whom once Calliope bare, it is said, wedded to Thracian Oeagrus, near the Pimpleian height. Men say that he by the music of his songs charmed the stubborn rocks upon the mountains and the course of rivers. And the wild oak-trees to this day, tokens of that magic strain, that grow at Zone on the Thracian shore, stand in ordered ranks close together, the same which under the charm of his lyre he led down from Pieria. Such then was Orpheus whom Aeson's son welcomed to share his toils, in obedience to the behest of Cheiron, Orpheus ruler of Bistonian Pieria.

35 ἦλυθε δ' Ἀστερίων αὐτοσχεδόν, ὃν ῥα Κομήτης
γεῖνατο δινήεντος ἐφ' ὕδασιν Ἀπιδανοῖο,
Πειρεσιᾶς ὄρεος Φυλληίου ἀγχόθι ναίων,
ἐνθα μὲν Ἀπιδανός τε μέγας καὶ δῖος Ἐνιπεύς
ἄμφω συμφορέονται, ἀπόπροθεν εἰς ἓν ἰόντες.

[35] Straightway came Asterion, whom Cometes begat by the waters of eddying Apidanus; he dwelt at Peiresiae near the Phylleian mount, where mighty Apidanus and bright Enipeus join their streams, coming together from afar.

40 Λάρισαν δ' ἐπὶ τοῖσι λιπὼν Πολύφημος ἵκανε
Εἰλατίδης, ὃς πρὶν μὲν ἐρισθενέων Λαπιθάων,
ὀπότε Κενταύροις Λαπιθαὶ ἐπὶ θωρήσσοντο,
ὀπλότερος πολέμιζε: τότε αὖ βαρύτεσκε οἱ ἦδη
γυῖα, μένεν δ' ἔτι θυμὸς ἀρήιος, ὥς τὸ πάρος περ.

[40] Next to them from Larisa came Polyphemos, son of Eilatus, who aforetime among the mighty Lapithae, when they were arming themselves against the Centaurs, fought in his younger days; now his limbs were grown heavy with age, but his martial spirit still remained, even as of old.

45 οὐδὲ μὲν Ἴφικλος Φυλάκη ἐνὶ δῆρὸν ἔλειπτο,
μήτρως Αἰσονίδαο: κασιγνήτην γὰρ ὅπνιεν
Αἴσων Ἀλκιμέδην Φυλακηίδα: τῆς μιν ἀνώγει
πηροσύνη καὶ κῆδος ἐνικρινθῆναι ὁμίλῳ.

[45] Nor was Iphiclus long left behind in Phylace, the uncle of Aeson's son; for Aeson had wedded his sister Alcimede, daughter of Phylacus: his kinship with her bade him be numbered in the host.

οὐδὲ Φεραῖς Ἀδμητος εὐρρήνεσσιν ἀνάσσων
50 μίμνεν ὑπὸ σκοπιῇν ὄρεος Χαλκωδονίοιο.

[49] Nor did Admetus, the lord of Pherae rich in sheep, stay behind beneath the peak of the Chalcodonian mount.

οὐδ' Ἀλόπη μίμνον πολυλήιοι Ἑρμεία
υἱέες εὖ δεδαῶτε δόλους, Ἑρυτος καὶ Ἐχίων,
τοῖσι δ' ἐπὶ τρίτατος γνωτὸς κίε νισσομένοισιν
Αἰθαλίδης: καὶ τὸν μὲν ἐπ' Ἀμφρυσσοῖο ῥόῃσιν
55 Μυρμιδόνοσ κούρη Φθιάς τέκεν Εὐπολέμεια:
τῷ δ' αὖτ' ἐκγεγάτην Μενετηίδος Ἀντιανείρης.

[51] Nor at Alope stayed the sons of Hermes, rich in corn-land, well skilled in craftiness, Erytus and Echion, and with them on their departure their kinsman Aethalides went as the third; him near the streams of Amphrysus Eupolemeia bare, the daughter of Myrmidon, from Phthia; the two others were sprung from Antianeira, daughter of Menetes.

ἦλθε δ' ἀφνειὴν προλιπὼν Γυρτῶνα Κόρωνος
Καινεΐδης, ἐσθλὸς μὲν, ἐοῦ δ' οὐ πατρὸς ἀμείνων.
Καινέα γὰρ ζῶν περ ἔτι κλείουσιν αἰοῖδοι
60 Κενταύροισιν ὀλέσθαι, ὅτε σφέας οἶος ἀπ' ἄλλων
ἦλας' ἀριστήων: οἱ δ' ἔμπαλιν ὀρμηθέντες
οὔτε μιν ἐγκλῖναι προτέρῳ σθένον, οὔτε δαΐζει:
ἀλλ' ἄρρηκτος ἄκαμπτος ἐδύσετο νειόθι γαίης,
θεινόμενος στιβαρῇσι καταΐγδην ἐλάτησιν.

[57] From rich Gyrton came Coronus, son of Caeneus, brave, but not braver than his father. For bards relate that Caeneus though still living perished at the hands of the Centaurs, when apart from other chiefs he routed them; and they, rallying against him, could neither bend nor slay him; but unconquered and unflinching he passed beneath the earth, overwhelmed by the downrush of massy pines.

65 ἦλθε δ' αὖ Μόψος Τιταρήσιος, ὃν περὶ πάντων
Λητοῖδης ἐδίδαξε θεοπροπίας οἰωνῶν:
ἦδὲ καὶ Εὐρυδάμας Κτιμένου πάις: ἄγχι δὲ λίμνης

Ἐυνιάδος Κτιμένην Δολοπηίδα ναιετάασκεν.

[65] There came too Titaesian Mopsus, whom above all men the son of Leto taught the augury of birds; and Eurydamas the son of Ctimenus; he dwelt at Dolopian Ctimene near the Xynian lake.

καὶ μὴν Ἄκτωρ υἷα Μενοίτιον ἐξ Ὀπόεντος
70 ὤρσεν, ἀριστήεσσι σὺν ἀνδράσιν ὄφρα νέοιτο.

[69] Moreover Actor sent his son Menoetius from Opus that he might accompany the chiefs.

εἶπετο δ' Εὐρυτίων τε καὶ ἀλκῆεις Ἐρυβώτης,
υἱὲς ὁ μὲν Τελέοντος, ὁ δ' Ἴρου Ἀκτορίδαο:
ἦτοι ὁ μὲν Τελέοντος ἐυκλειῆς Ἐρυβώτης,
Ἴρου δ' Εὐρυτίων. σὺν καὶ τρίτος ἦεν Οἰλεύς,
75 ἔξοχος ἡγορέην καὶ ἐπαῖξαι μετόπισθεν
εὖ δεδαῶς δῆοισιν, ὅτε κλίνωσι φάλαγγας.

[71] Eurytion followed and strong Eribotes, one the son of Teleon, the other of Irus, Actor's son; the son of Teleon renowned Eribotes, and of Irus Eurytion. A third with them was Oileus, peerless in courage and well skilled to attack the flying foe, when they break their ranks.

αὐτὰρ ἀπ' Εὐβοίης Κάνθος κίε, τόν ῥα Κάνθηος
πέμπεν Ἀβαντιάδης λεληημένον: οὐ μὲν ἔμελλεν
νοστήσειν Κήρινθον ὑπότροπος. αἰσα γὰρ ἦεν
80 αὐτὸν ὁμῶς Μόψον τε δαήμονα μαντοσυνάων
πλαγχθέντας Λιβύης ἐνὶ πείρασι δηωθῆναι,
ὥς οὐκ ἀνθρώποισι κακὸν μήκιστον ἐπαυρεῖν,
ὀππότε κακείνους Λιβύῃ ἐνὶ ταρχύσαντο,
τόσσον ἐκὰς Κόλχων, ὅσσον τέ περ ἡελίοιο
85 μεσσηγὺς δύσιές τε καὶ ἀντολαὶ εἰσορόωνται.

[77] Now from Euboea came Canthus eager for the quest, whom Canethus son of Abas sent; but he was not destined to return to Cerinthus. For fate had ordained that he and Mopsus, skilled in the seer's art, should wander and perish in the furthest ends of Libya. For no ill is too remote for mortals to incur, seeing that they buried them in Libya, as far from the Colchians as is the space that is seen between the setting and the rising of the sun.

τῷ δ' ἄρ' ἐπὶ Κλυτίος τε καὶ Ἴφιτος ἡγερέθοντο,
Οἰχαλῆς ἐπίουροι, ἀπηνέος Εὐρύτου υἱὲς,
Εὐρύτου, ᾧ πόρε τόξον Ἐκηβόλος: οὐδ' ἀπόνητο
δοτίνης: αὐτῷ γὰρ ἐκὼν ἐρίδηνε δοτῆρι.

[86] To him Clytius and Iphitus joined themselves, the warders of Oechalia, sons of Eurytus the ruthless, Eurytus, to whom the Far-shooting god gave his

bow; but he had no joy of the gift; for of his own choice he strove even with the giver.

90 τοῖσι δ' ἐπ' Αἰακίδαι μετεκίαθον: οὐ μὲν ἅμ' ἅμφω,
οὐδ' ὁμόθεν: νόσφιν γὰρ ἀλευάμενοι κατένασθεν
Αἰγίνης, ὅτε Φῶκον ἀδελφεὸν ἐξενάριζαν
ἄφραδίῃ. Τελαμὼν μὲν ἐν Ἀτθίδι νάσσατο νήσῳ:
Πηλεὺς δὲ Φθίῃ ἐνὶ δώματα ναῖε λιασθεῖς.

[90] After them came the sons of Aeacus, not both together, nor from the same spot; for they settled far from Aegina in exile, when in their folly they had slain their brother Phoeus. Telamon dwelt in the Attic island; but Peleus departed and made his home in Phthia.

95 τοῖς δ' ἐπὶ Κεκροπίηθεν ἀρήιος ἦλυθε Βούτης,
παῖς ἀγαθοῦ Τελέοντος, ἐνμμελῆς τε Φάληρος.
Ἄλκων μιν προέηκε πατὴρ ἐός: οὐ μὲν ἔτ' ἄλλους
γῆραος υἱὰς ἔχεν βιότιοι τε κηδεμονῆας.
ἀλλὰ ἐτηλύγετόν περ ὁμῶς καὶ μόνον ἐόντα
100 πέμπεν, ἵνα θρασέεσσι μεταπρέποι ἡρώεσσιν.
Θησέα δ', ὃς περὶ πάντας Ἐρεχθεΐδας ἐκέκαστο,
Ταιναρίην αἰδηλὸς ὑπὸ χθόνα δεσμὸς ἔρυκεν,
Πειρίθῳ ἐσπόμενον κοινήν ὁδόν: ἧ τέ κεν ἅμφω
ῥήϊτερον καμάτοιο τέλος πάντεσσιν ἔθεντο.

[95] After them from Cecropia came warlike Butes, son of brave Teleon, and Phalerus of the ashen spear. Alcon his father sent him forth; yet no other sons had he to care for his old age and livelihood. But him, his well-beloved and only son, he sent forth that amid bold heroes he might shine conspicuous. But Theseus, who surpassed all the sons of Erechtheus, an unseen bond kept beneath the land of Taenarus, for he had followed that path with Peirithous; assuredly both would have lightened for all the fulfilment of their toil.

105 Τῖφυς δ' Ἀγνιάδης Σιφαέα κάλλιπε δῆμον
Θεσπιάων, ἐσθλὸς μὲν ὀρινόμενον προδαῖναι
κῦμ' ἄλὸς εὐρείης, ἐσθλὸς δ' ἀνέμοιο θυέλλας
καὶ πλόον ἠελίῳ τε καὶ ἀστέρι τεκμήρασθαι.
αὐτὴ μιν Τριτωνὶς ἀριστῶν ἐς ὄμιλον
110 ὥρσεν Ἀθηναίη, μετὰ δ' ἦλυθεν ἐλδομένοισιν.
αὐτὴ γὰρ καὶ νῆα θοὴν κάμε: σὺν δέ οἱ Ἄργος
τεῦξεν Ἀρεστορίδης κείνης ὑποθημοσύνησιν.
τῷ καὶ πασάων προφερεστάτῃ ἔπλετο νηῶν,
ὅσσαι ὑπ' εἰρεσίῃσιν ἐπειρήσαντο θαλάσσης.

[105] Tiphys, son of Hagnias, left the Siphæan people of the Thespians, well skilled to foretell the rising wave on the broad sea, and well skilled to infer

from sun and star the stormy winds and the time for sailing. Tritonian Athena herself urged him to join the band of chiefs, and he came among them a welcome comrade. She herself too fashioned the swift ship; and with her Argus, son of Arestor, wrought it by her counsels. Wherefore it proved the most excellent of all ships that have made trial of the sea with oars.

115 Φλίας δ' αὖτ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν Ἀραιθυρέηθεν ἵκανε,
ἐνθ' ἀφνειὸς ἕναιε Διωνύσοιο ἔκῃτι,
πατὴρ δ' εὐὸς, πηγῇσιν ἐφέστιος Ἀσωποῖο.

[115] After them came Phlias from Araethyrea, where he dwelt in affluence by the favour of his father Dionysus, in his home by the springs of Asopus.

Ἀργόθεν αὖ Ταλαὸς καὶ Ἀρήιος, υἱε Βίαντος,
ἤλυθον ἴφθιμός τε Λεώδοκος, οὓς τέκε Πηρῶ
120 Νηληΐς: τῆς δ' ἀμφὶ δύνῃ ἐμόγησε βαρεῖαν
Αἰολίδης σταθμοῖσιν ἐν Ἰφίκλοιῳ Μελάμπους.

[118] From Argos came Talaus and Areius, sons of Bias, and mighty Leodocus, all of whom Pero daughter of Neleus bare; on her account the Aeolid Melampus endured sore affliction in the steading of Iphiclus.

οὐδὲ μὲν οὐδὲ βίην κρατερόφρονος Ἡρακλῆος
πευθόμεθ' Αἰσονίδαο λιλαιομένου ἀθερίζαι.
ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ αἶε βάξιν ἀγειρομένων ἥρώων,
125 νεῖον ἅπ' Ἀρκαδίας Λυρκήιον Ἄργος ἀμείψας
τὴν ὁδόν, ἧ ζῶν φέρε κάπριον, ὅς ῥ' ἐνὶ βήσσης
φәрβετο Λαμπεΐης, Ἐρυμάνθιον ἄμ' μέγα τίφος,
τὸν μὲν ἐνὶ πρώτῃσι Μυκηναίων ἀγορῇσιν
δεσμοῖς ἰλλόμενον μεγάλων ἀπεθήκατο νότων:
130 αὐτὸς δ' ἧ ἰότητι παρὲκ νόον Εὐρυσθεῖος
ὠρμήθη: σὺν καὶ οἱ Ὑλάς κίεν, ἐσθλὸς ὁπάων,
πρωθήβης, ἰὼν τε φορεὺς φύλακός τε βιοῖο.

[122] Nor do we learn that Heracles of the mighty heart disregarded the eager summons of Aeson's son. But when he heard a report of the heroes' gathering and had reached Lyrceian Argos from Arcadia by the road along which he carried the boar alive that fed in the thickets of Lampeia, near the vast Erymanthian swamp, the boar bound with chains he put down from his huge shoulders at the entrance to the market-place of Mycenae; and himself of his own will set out against the purpose of Eurystheus; and with him went Hylas, a brave comrade, in the flower of youth, to bear his arrows and to guard his bow.

τῷ δ' ἐπὶ δὴ θείῳ κίεν Δαναοῖο γενέθλη,
Ναύπλιος. ἧ γὰρ ἔην Κλυτονόου Ναυβολίδαο:
135 Ναύβολος αὖ Λέρνου: Λέρνον γε μὲν ἴδμεν ἔοντα

Προΐτου Ναυπλιάδαο: Ποσειδάωνι δὲ κούρη.
πρίν ποτ' Ἀμυμώνη Δαναΐς τέκεν εὐνηθεῖσα
Ναύπλιον, ὃς περὶ πάντας ἐκαίνυτο ναυτιλίῃσιν.

[133] Next to him came a scion of the race of divine Danaus, Nauplius. He was the son of Clytonaeus son of Naubolus; Naubolus was son of Lernus; Lernus we know was the son of Proetus son of Nauplius; and once Amymone daughter of Danaus, wedded to Poseidon, bare Nauplius, who surpassed all men in naval skill.

Ἰδμων δ' ὑστάτιος μετεκίαθεν, ὅσσοι ἔναιον
140 Ἄργος, ἐπεὶ δεδαῶς τὸν ἐδὸν μόρον οἰωνοῖσιν
ἦε, μὴ οἱ δῆμος ἐνκλείης ἀγάσαιτο.
οὐ μὲν ὄγ' ἦεν Ἄβαντος ἐτήτυμον, ἀλλὰ μιν αὐτὸς
γεῖνατο κυδαλίμοις ἐναρίθμιον Αἰολίδῃσιν
Λητοῖδης: αὐτὸς δὲ θεοπροπίας ἐδίδαξεν
145 οἰωνούς τ' ἀλέγειν ἢ δ' ἔμπτρα σήματ' ιδέσθαι.

[139] Idmon came last of all them that dwelt at Argos, for though he had learnt his own fate by augury, he came, that the people might not grudge him fair renown. He was not in truth the son of Abas, but Leto's son himself begat him to be numbered among the illustrious Aeolids; and himself taught him the art of prophecy — to pay heed to birds and to observe the signs of the burning sacrifice.

καὶ μὴν Αἰτωλὶς κρατερὸν Πολυδεύκεα Λήδῃ
Κάστορά τ' ὠκυπόδων ὄρσεν δεδαημένον ἵππων
Σπάρτηθεν: τοὺς δ' ἦγε δόμοις ἐνὶ Τυνδαρέοιο
τηλυγέτους ὥδινι μιῇ τέκεν: οὐδ' ἀπίθησεν
150 νισσομένοις: Ζηνὸς γὰρ ἐπάξια μῆδετο λέκτρων.

[146] Moreover Aetolian Leda sent from Sparta strong Polydeuces and Castor, skilled to guide swift-footed steeds; these her dearly-loved sons she bare at one birth in the house of Tyndareus; nor did she forbid their departure; for she had thoughts worthy of the bride of Zeus.

οἳ τ' Ἀφαρητιάδαι Λυγκεὺς καὶ ὑπέρβιος Ἴδας
Ἀρήνηθεν ἔβαν, μεγάλη περιθαρσέες ἀλκῇ
ἀμφοτέροι: Λυγκεὺς δὲ καὶ ὀξυτάτοις ἐκέκαστο
ὄμμασιν, εἰ ἐτερόν γε πέλει κλέος, ἀνέρα κεῖνον
155 ῥηιδίως καὶ νέρθε κατὰ χθονὸς αὐγάζεσθαι.

[151] The sons of Aphareus, Lynceus and proud Idas, came from Arene, both exulting in their great strength; and Lynceus too excelled in keenest sight, if the report is true that that hero could easily direct his sight even beneath the earth.

σὺν δὲ Περικλύμενος Νηληϊὸς ὥρτο νέεσθαι,
πρεσβύτατος παίδων, ὅσσοι Πύλῳ ἐξεγένοντο
Νηληϊὸς θείοιο: Ποσειδάων δέ οἱ ἀλκὴν
δῶκεν ἀπειρεσίην ἥδ' ὅττι κεν ἀρήσαιο
160 μαρνάμενος, τὸ πέλεσθαι ἐνὶ ξυνοχῇ πολέμοιο.

[156] And with them Neleian Periclymenus set out to come, eldest of all the sons of godlike Neleus who were born at Pylos; Poseidon had given him boundless strength and granted him that whatever shape he should crave during the fight, that he should take in the stress of battle.

καὶ μὴν Ἀμφιδάμας Κηφεύς τ' ἴσαν Ἀρκαδίηθεν,
οἱ Τεγέην καὶ κλῆρον Ἀφειδάντειον ἔναιον,
ὕϊε δὴ δὴ Ἀλεοῦ: τρίτατός γε μὲν ἔσπετ' ἰοῦσιν
Ἀγκαῖος, τὸν μὲν ῥα πατὴρ Λυκόοργος ἔπεμπε,
165 τῶν ἄμφω γνωτὸς προγενέστερος. ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν ἦδη
γηράσκοντ' Ἀλεὼν λίπετ' ἄμ πόλιν ὄφρα κομίζοι,
παῖδα δ' ἐὼν σφετέροισι κασιγνήτοισιν ὅπασσεν.
βῆ δ' ὄγε Μαιναλῆς ἄρκτου δέρος, ἀμφίτομόν τε
δεξιτερῇ πάλλων πέλεκυν μέγαν. ἔντεα γάρ οἱ
170 πατροπάτωρ Ἀλεὼς μυχάτῃ ἐνέκρυψε καλιῇ,
αἷ κέν πῶς ἔτι καὶ τὸν ἐρητύσειε νέεσθαι.

[161] Moreover from Arcadia came Amphidamas and Cepheus, who inhabited Tegea and the allotment of Apeidas, two sons of Aldus; and Ancaeus followed them as the third, whom his father Lycurgus sent, the brother older than both. But he was left in the city to care for Aleus now growing old, while he gave his son to join his brothers. Antaeus went clad in the skin of a Maenalian bear, and wielding in his right hand a huge two-edged battleaxe. For his armour his grandsire had hidden in the house's innermost recess, to see if he might by some means still stay his departure.

βῆ δὲ καὶ Αὐγείης, ὃν δὴ φάτις Ἡελίοιο
ἔμμεναι: Ἡελίοισι δ' ὄγ' ἀνδράσιν ἐμβασίλευεν,
ὄλβῳ κυδιῶν: μέγα δ' ἔϊτο Κολχίδα γαῖαν
175 αὐτόγτ' Αἰήτην ιδέειν σημάντορα Κόλχων.

[172] There came also Augeias, whom fame declared to be the son of Helios; he reigned over the Eleans, glorying in his wealth; and greatly he desired to behold the Colchian land and Aeetes himself the ruler of the Colchians.

Ἀστέριος δὲ καὶ Ἀμφίων Ὑπερασίου υἱες
Πελλήνης ἀφίκανον Ἀχαιίδος, ἣν ποτε Πέλλης
πατροπάτωρ ἐπόλισσεν ἐπ' ὄφρυσιν Αἰγυαλοῖο.

[176] Asterius and Amphion, sons of Hyperasius, came from Achaean Pellene, which once Pelles their grandsire founded on the brows of Aegialus.

Ταίναρον αὐτ' ἐπὶ τοῖσι λιπὼν Εὐφημος ἵκανε,
180 τὸν ῥα Ποσειδάωνι ποδωκῆστατον ἄλλον
Εὐρώπῃ Υἱτυοῖο μεγασθενέος τέκε κούρη.
κεῖνος ἀνὴρ καὶ πόντου ἐπὶ γλαυκοῖο θέσκεν
οἴδατος, οὐδὲ θοοὺς βάπτεν πόδας, ἀλλ' ὅσον ἄκροις
ἴχνεσι τεγγόμενος διερῇ πεφόρητο κελεύθῳ.

[179] After them from Taenarus came Euphemus whom, most swift-footed of men, Europe, daughter of mighty Tityos, bare to Poseidon. He was wont to skim the swell of the grey sea, and wetted not his swift feet, but just dipping the tips of his toes was borne on the watery path.

185 καὶ δ' ἄλλω δύο παῖδε Ποσειδάωνος ἵκοντο:
ἦτοι ὁ μὲν πτολίεθρον ἀγαυοῦ Μιλήτοιο
νοσφισθεὶς Ἐργῖνος, ὁ δ' Ἴμβρασίης ἔδος Ἥρης,
παρθενίην, Ἀγκαῖος ὑπέρβιος: ἵστορε δ' ἄμφω
ἡμὲν ναυτιλίας ἡ δ' ἄρεος εὐχετόωντο.

[185] Yea, and two other sons of Poseidon came; one Erginus, who left the citadel of glorious Miletus, the other proud Ancaeus, who left Parthenia, the seat of Imbrasion Hera; both boasted their skill in seacraft and in war.

190 Οἰνεΐδης δ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ἀφορμηθεὶς Καλυδῶνος
ἀλκῆεις Μελέαγρος ἀνήλυθε, Λαοκόων τε,
Λαοκόων Οἰνῆος ἀδελφεός, οὐ μὲν ἱῆς γε
μητέρος: ἀλλὰ ἐθήσσα γυνὴ τέκε: τὸν μὲν ἄρ' Οἰνεὺς
ἦδη γηραλέον κοσμήτορα παιδὸς ἱάλλεν:
195 ὧδ' ἔτι κουρίζων περιθαρσέα δύνεν ὄμιλον
ἡρώων. τοῦ δ' οὕτιν' ὑπέρτερον ἄλλον οἶω,
νόσφιν γ' Ἑρακλῆος, ἐπελθέμεν, εἴ κ' ἔτι μούνον
αὐθι μένων λυκάβαντα μετετράφη Αἰτωλοῖσιν.
καὶ μὴν οἱ μήτρως αὐτὴν ὁδόν, εὖ μὲν ἄκοντι,
200 εὖ δὲ καὶ ἐν σταδίῃ δεδαημένος ἀντιφέρεσθαι,
Θεστιάδης Ἴφικλος ἐφωμάρτησε κίοντι.

[190] After them from Calydon came the son of Oeneus, strong Meleagrus, and Laocoön — Laocoön the brother of Oeneus, though not by the same mother, for a serving-woman bare him; him, now growing old, Oeneus sent to guard his son: thus Meleagrus, still a youth, entered the bold band of heroes. No other had come superior to him, I ween, except Heracles, if for one year more he had tarried and been nurtured among the Aetolians. Yea, and his uncle, well skilled to fight whether with the javelin or hand to hand, Iphiclus son of Thestius, bare him company on his way.

σὺν δὲ Παλαιμόνιος Λέρνου πάις Ὠλενίοιο,
Λέρνου ἐπὶ κλησιν, γενεὴν γε μὲν Ἑφαίστοιο:

τούνεκ' ἔην πόδα σιφλός· ἀτὰρ δέμας οὐ κέ τις ἔτλη
205 ἠνορέην τ' ὀνόσασθαι, ὃ καὶ μεταρίθμιος ἦεν
πᾶσιν ἀριστήεσσιν, Ἰήσωνι κῦδος ἀέξων.

[202] With him came Palaemonius, son of Olenian Lernus, of Lernus by repute, but his birth was from Hephaestus; and so he was crippled in his feet, but his bodily frame and his valour no one would dare to scorn. Wherefore he was numbered among all the chiefs, winning fame for Jason.

ἐκ δ' ἄρα Φωκίων κίεν Ἴφιτος Ὀρνυτίδαο
Ναυβόλου ἐκγεγώς· ξεινός δέ οἱ ἔσκε πάροιθεν,
ἦμος ἔβη Πυθώδε θεοπροπίας ἐρεείνων
210 ναυτιλίας· τόθι γάρ μιν εἰς ὑπέδεκτο δόμοισιν.
Ζήτης αὖ Κάλαις τε Βορήιοι νῆες ἵκοντο,
οὓς ποτ' Ἐρεχθίδος Βορὴν τέκεν Ὠρείθυια
ἐσχατιῇ Θρήκης δυσχειμέρου· ἔνθ' ἄρα τήνγε
Θρηίκιος Βορέης ἀνέρέψατο Κεκροπήθην
215 Ἴλισσοῦ προπάροιθε χορῶ ἔνι δινεύουσιν.
καὶ μιν ἄγων ἔκαθεν, Σαρπηδονίην ὅθι πέτρην
κλείουσιν, ποταμοῖο παρὰ ῥόον Ἐργίνοιο,
λυγαίοις ἐδάμασσε περὶ νεφέεσσι καλύψας.
τὼ μὲν ἐπ' ἀκροτάτοισι ποδῶν ἐκάτερθεν ἐρεμνάς
220 σεῖον ἀειρομένω πτέρυγας, μέγα θάμβος ἰδέσθαι,

[207] From the Phocians came Iphitus sprung from Naubolus son of Ornytus; once he had been his host when Jason went to Pytho to ask for a response concerning his voyage; for there he welcomed him in his own halls.

χρυσείαις φολίδεσσι διαυγέας· ἀμφὶ δὲ νώτοις
κράατος ἐξ ὑπάτοιο καὶ αὐχένος ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα
κυάναει δονέοντο μετὰ πνοιῇσιν ἔθειραι.

[221] Next came Zetes and Calais, sons of Boreas, whom once Oreithyia, daughter of Erechtheus, bare to Boreas on the verge of wintry Thrace; thither it was that Thracian Boreas snatched her away from Cecropia as she was whirling in the dance, hard by Hissus' stream. And, carrying her far off, to the spot that men called the rock of Sarpedon, near the river Erginus, he wrapped her in dark clouds and forced her to his will. There they were making their dusky wings quiver upon their ankles on both sides as they rose, a great wonder to behold, wings that gleamed with golden scales: and round their backs from the top of the head and neck, hither and thither, their dark tresses were being shaken by the wind.

οὐδὲ μὲν οὐδ' αὐτοῖο πάις μενέαιεν Ἄκαστος
225 ἰφθίμου Πελῖαιο δόμοις ἔνι πατρὸς ἑῆος
μιμνάζειν, Ἄργος τε θεᾶς ὑποεργὸς Ἀθήνης·

ἀλλ' ἄρα καὶ τὸ μέλλον ἐνικρινθῆναι ὁμίλῳ.

[224] No, nor had Acastus son of mighty Pelias himself any will to stay behind in the palace of his brave sire, nor Argus, helper of the goddess Athena; but they too were ready to be numbered in the host.

τόσσοι ἄρ' Αἰσονίδῃ συμμήστορες ἡγερέθοντο.
τοὺς μὲν ἀριστῆας Μινύας περιναιετάοντες
230 κίκλησκον μάλα πάντας, ἐπεὶ Μινύαιο θυγατρῶν
οἱ πλεῖστοι καὶ ἄριστοι ἀφ' αἵματος εὐχετόωντο
ἔμμεναι: ὥς δὲ καὶ αὐτὸν Ἰήσωνα γείνατο μήτηρ
Ἀλκιμέδη, Κλυμένης Μινυηίδος ἐκγεγαυῖα.

[228] So many then were the helpers who assembled to join the son of Aeson. All the chiefs the dwellers thereabout called Minyae, for the most and the bravest avowed that they were sprung from the blood of the daughters of Minyas; thus Jason himself was the son of Alcimede who was born of Clymene the daughter of Minyas.

αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ δμώεσσιν ἐπαρτέα πάντ' ἐτέτυκτο,
235 ὅσσα περ ἐντύνονται ἐπαρτέες ἔνδοθι νῆες,
εὗτ' ἂν ἄγῃ χρέος ἄνδρας ὑπεῖρ ἅλα ναυτίλλεσθαι,
δὴ τότε ἴσαν μετὰ νῆα δι' ἄστεος, ἔνθα περ ἅκται
κλείονται Παγασαὶ Μαγνήτιδες: ἀμφὶ δὲ λαῶν
πληθὺς σπερχομένων ἄμυδις θέεν: οἱ δὲ φαεινοὶ
240 ἀστέρες ὥς νεφέεσσι μετέπρεπον: ὧδε δ' ἕκαστος
ἔννεπεν εἰσορόων σὺν τεύχεσιν αἰσσοντας:
'Ζεῦ ἄνα, τίς Πελῖαιο νόος; πόθι τόσσον ὅμιλον
ἡρώων γαίης Παναχαΐδος ἔκτοθι βάλλει;
αὐτῇμάρ κε δόμους ὀλοῶ πυρὶ δηώσειαν
245 Αἰήτεω, ὅτε μὴ σφιν ἐκὼν δέρος ἐγγυαλίζῃ.
ἀλλ' οὐ φυκτὰ κέλευθα, πόνος δ' ἄπρηκτος ἰοῦσιν.'

[234] Now when all things had been made ready by the thralls, all things that fully-equipped ships are furnished withal when men's business leads them to voyage across the sea, then the heroes took their way through the city to the ship where it lay on the strand that men call Magnesian Pagasae; and a crowd of people hastening rushed together; but the heroes shone like gleaming stars among the clouds; and each man as he saw them speeding along with their armour would say: "King Zeus, what is the purpose of Pelias? Whither is he driving forth from the Panachaeian land so great a host of heroes? On one day they would waste the palace of Aeetes with baleful fire, should he not yield them the fleece of his own goodwill. But the path is not to be shunned, the toil is hard for those who venture."

ὥς φάσαν ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα κατὰ πτόλιν: αἱ δὲ γυναῖκες

πολλά μάλ' ἄθανάτοισιν ἐς αἰθέρα χεῖρας ἄειρον,
εὐχόμεναι νόστοιο τέλος θυμηδὲς ὀπάσσαι.

250 ἄλλη δ' εἰς ἑτέραν ὀλοφύρετο δακρυχέουσα:
'δειλὴ Ἀλκιμέδη, καὶ σοὶ κακὸν ὀφέ περ ἔμπης
ἦλθεν, οὐδ' ἐτέλεσσας ἐπ' ἀγλαΐῃ βίοτιο.
Αἴσων αὖ μέγα δὴ τι δυσάμμορος. ἦ τέ οἱ ἦεν
βέλτερον, εἰ τὸ πάροιθεν ἐνὶ κτερέεσσιν ἔλυσθεις
255 νειόθι γαίης κεῖτο, κακῶν ἔτι νῆις ἀέθλων.
ὥς ὄφελεν καὶ Φρίξον, ὅτ' ὤλετο παρθένος Ἑλλή,
κῦμα μέλαν κριῶ ἅμ' ἐπικλύσαι: ἀλλὰ καὶ αὐδὴν
ἀνδρομέην προέηκε κακὸν τέρας, ὥς κεν ἀνίας
Ἀλκιμέδη μετόπισθε καὶ ἄλγεα μυρία θείη.'
260 αἱ μὲν ἄρ' ὥς ἀγόρευον ἐπὶ προμολῆσι κιόντων.

[247] Thus they spake here and there throughout the city; but the women often raised their hands to the sky in prayer to the immortals to grant a return, their hearts' desire. And one with tears thus lamented to her fellow: "Wretched Alcimede, evil has come to thee at last though late, thou hast not ended with splendour of life. Aeson too, ill-fated man! Surely better had it been for him, if he were lying beneath the earth, enveloped in his shroud, still unconscious of bitter toils. Would that the dark wave, when the maiden Helle perished, had overwhelmed Phrixus too with the ram; but the dire portent even sent forth a human voice, that it might cause to Alcimede sorrows and countless pains hereafter."

ἦδη δὲ δμῶές τε πολεῖς δμωαί τ' ἀγέροντο:
μήτηρ δ' ἄμφ' αὐτὸν βεβολημένη. ὅξδ' ἐκάστην
δύνεν ἄχος: σὺν δέ σφι πατήρ ὀλοῶ ὑπὸ γῆραι
ἐντυπᾶς ἐν λεχέεσσι καλυψάμενος γοάσκειν.
265 αὐτὰρ ὁ τῶν μὲν ἔπειτα κατεπρήνεν ἀνίας
θαρσύνων, δμῶεσσι δ' ἀρήια τεύχε' ἀείρειν
πέφραδεν: οἱ δέ τε σῖγα κατηφές ἡείροντο.
μήτηρ δ' ὥς τὰ πρῶτ' ἐπεχευάτο πῆχε παιδί,
ὥς ἔχετο κλαίουσ' ἀδινώτερον, ἥντε κούρη
270 οἴοθεν ἀσπασίως πολιὴν τροφὸν ἀμφιτεσοῦσα
μύρεται, ἥ οὐκ εἰσὶν ἔτ' ἄλλοι κηδεμονῆες,
ἀλλ' ὑπὸ μητρυνῇ βίοτον βαρὺν ἡγηλάζει:
καὶ ἐ νέον πολέεσσιν ὀνειδέσιν ἐστυφέλιξεν,
τῇ δέ τ' ὀδυρομένη δέδεται κέαρ ἔνδοθεν ἄτη,
275 οὐδ' ἔχει ἐκφλύξαι τόσσον γόνον, ὅσσον ὀρεχθεῖ:
ὥς ἀδινὸν κλαίεσκεν ἐὼν παῖδ' ἀγκὰς ἔχουσα
Ἀλκιμέδη, καὶ τοῖον ἔπος φάτο κηδοσύνησιν:
'αἶθ' ὄφελον κεῖν' ἡμαρ, ὅτ' ἐξειπόντος ἄκουσα
δειλὴ ἐγὼ Πελῖας κακὴν βασιλῆος ἐφετμὴν,
280 αὐτίκ' ἀπὸ ψυχὴν μεθέμεν, κηδέων τε λαθέσθαι,

ὄφρ' αὐτός με τεῖσι φίλαις ταρχύσαιο χερσίν,
 τέκνον ἐμόν: τὸ γὰρ οἶον ἔην ἔτι λοιπὸν ἐέλδωρ
 ἐκ σέθεν, ἄλλα δὲ πάντα πάλαι θρεπτήρια πέσσω.
 νῦν γε μὲν ἢ τὸ πάροιθεν Ἀχαιιάδεσσιν ἀγητή
 285 δμῳῖς ὅπως κενεοῖσι λελεῖψομαι ἐν μεγάροισιν,
 σεῖο πόθῳ μινύθουσα δυσάμμορος, ᾧ ἔπι πολλήν
 ἀγλαΐην καὶ κῦδος ἔχον πάρος, ᾧ ἔπι μούνῳ
 μίτρην πρῶτον ἔλυσα καὶ ὕστατον. ἔξοχα γάρ μοι
 Εἰλειθυια θεὰ πολέος ἐμέγηρε τόκοιο.
 290 ᾧ μοι ἐμῆς ἄτης: τὸ μὲν οὐδ' ὄσον, οὐδ' ἐν ὀνείρῳ
 ὠισάμην, εἰ Φρίξος ἐμοὶ κακὸν ἔσσειτ' ἀλύξας.'

[261] Thus the women spake at the departure of the heroes. And now many thralls, men and women, were gathered together, and his mother, smitten with grief for Jason. And a bitter pang seized every woman's heart; and with them groaned the father in baleful old age, lying on his bed, closely wrapped round. But the hero straightway soothed their pain, encouraging them, and bade the thralls take up his weapons for war; and they in silence with downcast looks took them up. And even as the mother had thrown her arms about her son, so she clung, weeping without stint, as a maiden all alone weeps, falling fondly on the neck of her hoary nurse, a maid who has now no others to care for her, but she drags on a weary life under a stepmother, who maltreats her continually with ever fresh insults, and as she weeps, her heart within her is bound fast with misery, nor can she sob forth all the groans that struggle for utterance; so without stint wept Alcimede straining her son in her arms, and in her yearning grief spake as follows: "Would that on that day when, wretched woman that I am, I heard King Pelias proclaim his evil behest, I had straightway given up my life and forgotten my cares, so that thou thyself, my son, with thine own hands, mightest have buried me; for that was the only wish left me still to be fulfilled by time, all the other rewards for thy nurture have I long enjoyed. Now I, once so admired among Achaean women, shall be left behind like a bondwoman in my empty halls, pining away, ill-fated one, for love of thee, thee on whose account I had aforetime so much splendour and renown, my only son for whom I loosed my virgin zone first and last. For to me beyond others the goddess Eileithyia grudged abundant offspring. Alas for my folly! Not once, not even in nay dreams did I forebode this, that the flight of Phrixus would bring me woe."

ὥς ἤγε στενάχουσα κινύρετο: ταὶ δὲ γυναῖκες
 ἀμφίπολοι γοάασκον ἐπισταδόν: αὐτὰρ ὁ τήνγε
 μειλίχοις ἐπέεσσι παρηγορέων προσέειπεν:
 295 'μή μοι λευγαλέας ἐνιβάλλεο, μῆτερ, ἀνίας
 ὧδε λίην, ἐπεὶ οὐ μὲν ἐρητύσεις κακότητος
 δάκρυσιν, ἀλλ' ἔτι κεν καὶ ἐπ' ἄλγεσιν ἄλγος ἄροιο.
 πῆματα γάρ τ' αἰδήλα θεοὶ θνητοῖσι φέμουσιν,

τῶν μοῖραν κατὰ θυμὸν ἀνιάζουσά περ ἔμπης
 300 τλήθῃ φέρειν: θάρσει δὲ συνημοσύνησιν Ἀθήνης,
 ἥδ' ἐθεοπροπίοισιν, ἐπεὶ μάλα δεξιὰ Φοῖβος
 ἔχρη, ἀτὰρ μετέπειτά γ' ἀριστῆων ἐπαρωγῇ.
 ἀλλὰ σὺ μὲν νῦν αὖθι μετ' ἀμφιπόλοισιν ἔκηλος
 μίμνε δόμοις, μὴδ' ὄρνις ἀεικελίη πέλε νηί:
 305 κεῖσε δ' ὁμαρτήσουσιν ἔται δμῶές τε κίοντι.'

[292] Thus with moaning she wept, and her handmaidens, standing by, lamented; but Jason spake gently to her with comforting words: "Do not, I pray thee, mother, store up bitter sorrows overmuch, for thou wilt not redeem me from evil by tears, but wilt still add grief to grief. For unseen are the woes that the gods mete out to mortals; be strong to endure thy share of them though with grief in thy heart; take courage from the promises of Athena, and from the answers of the gods (for very favourable oracles has Phoebus given), and then from the help of the chieftains. But do thou remain here, quiet among thy handmaids, and be not a bird of ill omen to the ship; and thither my clansmen and thralls will follow me."

ἦ, καὶ ὁ μὲν προτέρωσε δόμων ἐξῴρτο νέεσθαι.
 οἶος δ' ἐκ νηοῖο θυώδεος εἴσιν Ἀπόλλων
 δῆλον ἀν' ἠγαθέην, ἥ ἐ Κλάρων, ἥ ὄγε Πυθῶ,
 ἥ Αὐκίην εὐρεῖαν, ἐπὶ Ξάνθοιο ῥοῇσιν,
 310 τοῖος ἀνὰ πληθὺν δήμου κίεν: ὥρτο δ' αὐτὴ
 κεκλομένων ἄμυδις. τῷ δὲ ξύμβλητο γεραιῇ
 Ἰφιάς Ἀρτέμιδος πολιόχου ἀρήτειρα,
 καὶ μιν δεξιτερῆς χειρὸς κύσεν, οὐδέ τι φάσθαι
 ἔμπης ἱεμένη δύνατο, προθέοντος ὁμίλου:
 315 ἀλλ' ἡ μὲν λίπετ' αὖθι παρακλιδόν, οἷα γεραιῇ
 ὀπλοτέρων, ὁ δὲ πολλὸν ἀποπλαγχθεὶς ἐλιάσθη.

[306] He spake, and started forth to leave the house. And as Apollo goes forth from some fragrant shrine to divine Delos or Claros or Pytho or to broad Lyeia near the stream of Xanthus, in such beauty moved Jason through the throng of people; and a cry arose as they shouted together. And there met him aged Iphias, priestess of Artemis guardian of the city, and kissed his right hand, but she had not strength to say a word, for all her eagerness, as the crowd rushed on, but she was left there by the wayside, as the old are left by the young, and he passed on and was gone afar.

αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ ῥα πόληος ἐνδμήτους λίπ' ἀγυιάς,
 ἀκτὴν δ' ἔκανε Παγασηίδα, τῇ μιν ἐταῖροι
 δειδέχαι, Ἀργῶη ἄμυδις παρὰ νηὶ μένοντες.
 320 στῇ δ' ἄρ' ἐπὶ προμολῆς: οἱ δ' ἀντίοι ἠγερέθοντο.
 ἐς δ' ἐνόησαν Ἀκαστον ὁμῶς Ἄργον τε πόληος
 νόσφι καταβλώσκοντας, ἐθάμβησαν δ' ἐσιδόντες

πασσυδίῃ Πελίοιο παρέκ νόον ἰθύνοντας.
 δέρμα δ' ὁ μὲν ταύροιο ποδιγενεὲς ἀμφέχετ' ὦμους
 325 Ἄργος Ἀρεστορίδης λάχνη μέλαν· αὐτὰρ ὁ καλὴν
 δίπλακα, τὴν οἱ ὄπασσε κασιγνήτη Πελόπεια.
 ἀλλ' ἔμπης τῷ μὲν τε διεξερέεσθαι ἕκαστα
 ἔσχετο· τοὺς δ' ἀγορήνδε συνεδριάσθαι ἄνωγεν.
 αὐτοῦ δ' ἰλλομένοις ἐπὶ λαΐφεισιν, ἡδὲ καὶ ἰστῶ
 330 κεκλιμένῳ μάλα πάντες ἐπισχερῶ ἐδριόωντο.
 τοῖσιν δ' Αἴσονος υἱὸς εὐφρονέων μετέειπεν·
 ἄλλα μὲν ὅσσα τε νηὶ ἐφοπλίσσασθαι ἔοικεν
 — πάντα γὰρ εἴ κατὰ κόσμον — ἐπαρτέα κεῖται ἰοῦσιν.
 τῷ οὐκ ἂν δηναῖον ἐχοίμεθα τοῖο ἔκητι
 335 ναυτιλίας, ὅτε μοῦνον ἐπιπνεύσουσιν αἴῃται.
 ἀλλὰ, φίλοι, — ξυνὸς γὰρ ἐς Ἑλλάδα νόστος ὀπίσσω,
 ξυναὶ δ' ἄμμι πέλονται ἐς Αἰῆταο κέλευθοι —
 τούνεκα νῦν τὸν ἄριστον ἀφειδήσαντες ἔλυσθε
 ὄρχαμον ἡμείων, ᾧ κεν τὰ ἕκαστα μέλοιτο,
 340 νεῖκεα συνθεσίας τε μετὰ ξείνοισι βαλέεσθαι.'

[317] Now when he had left the well-built streets of the city, he came to the beach of Pagasae, where his comrades greeted him as they stayed together near the ship Argo. And he stood at the entering in, and they were gathered to meet him. And they perceived Aeastus and Argus coming from the city, and they marvelled when they saw them hasting with all speed, despite the will of Pelias. The one, Argus, son of Arestor, had cast round his shoulders the hide of a bull reaching to his feet, with the black hair upon it, the other, a fair mantle of double fold, which his sister Pelopeia had given him. Still Jason forebore from asking them about each point but bade all be seated for an assembly. And there, upon the folded sails and the mast as it lay on the ground, they all took their seats in order. And among them with goodwill spake Aeson's son: "All the equipment that a ship needs for all is in due order — lies ready for our departure. Therefore we will make no long delay in our sailing for these things' sake, when the breezes but blow fair. But, friends, — for common to all is our return to Hellas hereafter, and common to all is our path to the land of Aeetes — now therefore with ungrudging heart choose the bravest to be our leader, who shall be careful for everything, to take upon him our quarrels and covenants with strangers."

ὥς φάτο· πάπτηναν δὲ νέοι θρασὺν Ἡρακλῆα
 ἥμενον ἐν μέσσοισι· μῆ δέ ἐ πάντες αὐτῇ
 σημαίνειν ἐπέτελλον· ὁ δ' αὐτόθεν, ἔνθα περ ἦστο,
 δεξιτερὴν ἀνὰ χεῖρα τανύσσατο φώνησέν τε·
 345 ἥ μή τις ἐμοὶ τόδε κῦδος ὀπαζέτω. οὐ γὰρ ἔγωγε
 πείσομαι· ὥστε καὶ ἄλλον ἀναστήσεσθαι ἐρύξω.
 αὐτός, ὅτις ξυνάγειρε, καὶ ἀρχεῖοι ὁμάδοιο.'

[341] Thus he spake; and the young heroes turned their eyes towards bold Heracles sitting in their midst, and with one shout they all enjoined upon him to be their leader; but he, from the place where he sat, stretched forth his right hand and said: "Let no one offer this honour to me. For I will not consent, and I will forbid any other to stand up. Let the hero who brought us together, himself be the leader of the host."

ἦ ῥα μέγα φρονέων, ἐπὶ δ' ἦνεον, ὥς ἐκέλευεν
Ἡρακλῆς: ἀνὰ δ' αὐτὸς ἀρήιος ὦρνυτ' Ἴησων
350 γηθόσυνος, καὶ τοῖα λιλαιομένοις ἀγόρευεν:
'εἰ μὲν δὴ μοι κῦδος ἐπιτρωπᾶτε μέλεσθαι,
μηκέτ' ἔπειθ', ὥς καὶ πρὶν, ἐρητύοιτο κέλευθα.
νῦν γε μὲν ἤδη Φοῖβον ἀρεσσάμενοι θυέεσσιν
δαῖτ' ἐντυνώμεσθα παρασχεδόν. ὄφρα δ' ἴωσιν
355 δμῶες ἐμοὶ σταθμῶν σημάντορες, οἷσι μέμληεν
δεῦρο βόας ἀγέληθεν ἐν κρίναντας ἐλάσσαι,
τόφρα κε νῆ' ἐρύσαιμεν ἔσω ἁλός, ὅπλα δὲ πάντα
ἐνθέμενοι πεπάλαχθε κατὰ κληῖδας ἐρετμά.
τείως δ' αὖ καὶ βωμὸν ἐπάκτιον Ἑμβασίωιο
360 θείομεν Ἀπόλλωνος, ὃ μοι χρεῖων ὑπέδεκτο
σημανέειν δεῖξιν τε πόρους ἁλός, εἴ κε θυηλαῖς
οὗ ἔθεν ἐξάρχωμαι ἀεθλεύων βασιλῆι.'

[348] Thus he spake with high thoughts, and they assented, as Heracles bade; and warlike Jason himself rose up, glad at heart, and thus addressed the eager throng: "If ye entrust your glory to my care, no longer as before let our path be hindered. Now at last let us propitiate Phoebus with sacrifice and straightway prepare a feast. And until my thralls come, the overseers of my steading, whose care it is to choose out oxen from the herd and drive them hither, we will drag down the ship to the sea, and do ye place all the tackling within, and draw lots for the benches for rowing. Meantime let us build upon the beach an altar to Apollo Embasius who by an oracle promised to point out and show me the paths of the sea, if by sacrifice to him I should begin my venture for King Pelias."

ἦ ῥα, καὶ εἰς ἔργον πρῶτος τράπεθ': οἱ δ' ἐπ' ἀνέστησαν
πειθόμενοι: ἀπὸ δ' εἶματ' ἐπήτριμα νηήσαντο
365 λείψ' ἐπὶ πλαταμῶνι, τὸν οὐκ ἐπέβαλλε θάλασσα
κύμασι, χειμερὶν δὲ πάλαι ἀποέκλυσεν ἄλμη.
νῆα δ' ἐπικρατέως Ἄργου ὑποθημοσύνησιν
ἔζωσαν πάμπρωτον ἐυστρεφεῖ ἐνδοθεν ὅπλω
τεινάμενοι ἐκάτερθεν, ἵν' εὖ ἀραροίαιτο γόμοις
370 δούρατα καὶ ῥοθίοιο βίην ἔχοι ἀντιώσαν.
σκάπτων δ' αἶψα κατ' εὖρος ὅσον περιβάλλετο χώρον,
ἠδὲ κατὰ πρόραν εἴσω ἁλὸς ὀσσάτιόν περ

ἔλκομένη χεῖρεσσιν ἐπιδραμέσθαι ἔμελλεν.
 αἰεὶ δὲ προτέρω χθαμαλώτερον ἐξελάχαινον
 375 στεῖρης, ἐν δ' ὀλκῷ ξεστὰς στορέσαντο φάλαγγας·
 τὴν δὲ κατάντη κλῖναν ἐπὶ πρώτῃσι φάλαγγιν,
 ὥς κεν ὀλισθαίνουσα δι' αὐτῶν φορέοιτο.
 ὕψι δ' ἄρ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα μεταστρέψαντες ἐρετμὰ
 πῆχυνον προύχοντα περὶ σκαλμοῖσιν ἔδησαν.
 380 τῶν δ' ἑναμοιβαδὶς αὐτοὶ ἐνέσταθεν ἀμφοτέρωθεν,
 στέρνα θ' ὁμοῦ καὶ χεῖρας ἐπήλασαν. ἐν δ' ἄρα Τίφυς
 βήσας, ἴν' ὀτρύνειε νέους κατὰ καιρὸν ἐρύσσαι·
 κεκλόμενος δ' ἦυσε μάλα μέγα· τοὶ δὲ παρᾶσσον
 ᾧ κράτει βρῖσαντες ἰὴ στυφέλιξαν ἐρωῇ
 385 νειόθεν ἐξ ἔδρης, ἐπὶ δ' ἐρρώσαντο πόδεςσιν
 προπροβιαζόμενοι· ἡ δ' ἔσπετο Πηλιᾶς Ἀργῷ
 ῥίμψα μάλ'· οἱ δ' ἐκάτερθεν ἐπίαχον αἰσسونτες.
 αἱ δ' ἄρ' ὑπὸ τρόπιδι στιβαρῇ στενάχοντο φάλαγγες
 τριβόμεναι περὶ δέ σφιν αἰδνὴ κήκιε λιγνύς
 390 βριθοσύνη, κατόλισθε δ' ἔσω ἁλός· οἱ δέ μιν αὖθι
 ἄψ ἀνασειράζοντες ἔχον προτέρωσε κιοῦσαν.
 σκαλμοῖς δ' ἀμφὶς ἐρετμὰ κατήρτυον· ἐν δέ οἱ ἰστὸν
 λαίφεά τ' εὐποίητα καὶ ἀρμαλιὴν ἐβάλλοντο.

[363] He spake, and was the first to turn to the work, and they stood up in obedience to him; and they heaped their garments, one upon the other, on a smooth stone, which the sea did not strike with its waves, but the stormy surge had cleansed it long before. First of all, by the command of Argus, they strongly girded the ship with a rope well twisted within, stretching it tight on each side, in order that the planks might be well compacted by the bolts and might withstand the opposing force of the surge. And they quickly dug a trench as wide as the space the ship covered, and at the prow as far into the sea as it would run when drawn down by their hands. And they ever dug deeper in front of the stem, and in the furrow laid polished rollers; and inclined the ship down upon the first rollers, that so she might glide and be borne on by them. And above, on both sides, reversing the oars, they fastened them round the thole-pins, so as to project a cubit's space. And the heroes themselves stood on both sides at the oars in a row, and pushed forward with chest and hand at once. And then Tiphys leapt on board to urge the youths to push at the right moment; and calling on them he shouted loudly; and they at once, leaning with all their strength, with one push started the ship from her place, and strained with their feet, forcing her onward; and Pelian Argo followed swiftly; and they on each side shouted as they rushed on. And then the rollers groaned under the sturdy keel as they were chafed, and round them rose up a dark smoke owing to the weight, and she glided into the sea; but the heroes stood there and kept dragging her back as she sped onward. And round the thole-pins they fitted the oars, and in the ship they placed the mast and the

well-made sails and the stores.

αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ τὰ ἕκαστα περιφραδέως ἀλέγυναν,
395 κληῖδας μὲν πρῶτα πάλῳ διεμοιρήσαντο,
ἄνδρ' ἐντυναμένῳ δοιῷ μίαν· ἐκ δ' ἄρα μέσσην
ἦρεον Ἡρακλεῖ καὶ ἠρώων ἄτερ ἄλλων
Ἀγκαίῳ, Τεγέης ὅς ῥα ποτ' ἰέθρον ἔναιεν.
τοῖς μέσσην οἴοισιν ἀπὸ κληῖδα λίποντο
400 αὐτῶς, οὔτι πάλῳ· ἐπὶ δ' ἔτρεπον αἰνῆσαντες
Τῖφυν εὐστείρης οἰῆια νηὸς ἔρυσθαι.

[394] Now when they had carefully paid heed to everything, first they distributed the benches by lot, two men occupying one seat; but the middle bench they chose for Heracles and Ancaeus apart from the other heroes, Ancaeus who dwelt in Tegea. For them alone they left the middle bench just as it was and not by lot; and with one consent they entrusted Tiphys with guarding the helm of the well-stemmed ship.

ἐνθεν δ' αὖ λάιγγας ἀλὸς σχεδὸν ὀχλίζοντες
νήεον αὐτόθι βωμὸν ἐπάκτιον Ἀπόλλωνος,
Ἀκτίου Ἐμβασίοιο τ' ἐπώνυμον· ὧκα δέ τοίγε
405 φιτροὺς ἀζαλέης στόρεσαν καθύπερθεν ἐλαίης.
τείως δ' αὖτ' ἀγέληθεν ἐπιπροέηκαν ἄγοντες
βουκόλοι Αἰσονίδαο δῶ βόε. τοὺς δ' ἐρύσαντο
κουρότεροι ἐτάρων βωμοῦ σχεδόν. οἱ δ' ἄρ' ἔπειτα
χέρνιβά τ' οὐλοχύτας τε παρέσχεθον. αὐτὰρ Ἰήσων
410 εὖχετο κεκλόμενος πατρώιον Ἀπόλλωνα·
'κλῦθι ἄναξ, Παγασάς τε πόλιν τ' Αἰσωνίδα ναίων,
ἡμετέριοι τοκῆς ἐπώνυμον, ὅς μοι ὑπέστης
Πυθοῖ χρειομένῳ ἄνυσιν καὶ πείραθ' ὁδοῖο
σημανέειν, αὐτὸς γὰρ ἐπαίτιος ἔπλευ ἀέθλων·
415 αὐτὸς νῦν ἄγε νῆα σὺν ἄρτεμέεσσιν ἐταίροις
κεῖσέ τε καὶ παλίνορσον ἐς Ἑλλάδα. σοὶ δ' ἂν ὀπίσσω
τόσσων, ὅσσοι κεν νοστήσομεν, ἀγλαὰ ταύρων
ἱρὰ πάλιν βωμῷ ἐπιθήσομεν· ἄλλα δὲ Πυθοῖ,
ἄλλα δ' ἐς Ὀρτυγίην ἀπείρεῖσια δῶρα κομίσσω.
420 νῦν δ' ἴθι, καὶ τήνδ' ἤμιν, Ἐκηβόλε, δέξο θυηλὴν,
ἦν τοι τῆσδ' ἐπίβαθρα χάριν προτεθείμεθα νηὸς
πρωτίστην· λύσαιμι δ', ἄναξ, ἐπ' ἀπήμονι μοίρῃ
πείσματα σὴν διὰ μῆτιν· ἐπιπνεύσειε δ' ἀήτης
μείλιχος, ὃ κ' ἐπὶ πόντον ἐλευσόμεθ' εὐδιώοντες.'

[402] Next, piling up shingle near the sea, they raised there an altar on the shore to Apollo, under the name of Actius and Embasius, and quickly spread above it logs of dried olive-wood. Meantime the herdsmen of Aeson's son had driven before them from the herd two steers. These the younger comrades

dragged near the altars, and the others brought lustral water and barley meal, and Jason prayed, calling on Apollo the god of his fathers: “Hear, O King, that dwellest in Pagasae and the city Aesonis, the city called by my father’s name, thou who didst promise me, when I sought thy oracle at Pytho, to show the fulfilment and goal of my journey, for thou thyself hast been the cause of my venture; now do thou thyself guide the ship with my comrades safe and sound, thither and back again to Hellas. Then in thy honour hereafter we will lay again on thy altar the bright offerings of bulls — all of us who return; and other gifts in countless numbers I will bring to Pytho and Ortygia. And now, come, Far-darter, accept this sacrifice at our hands, which first of all we have offered thee for this ship on our embarkation; and grant, O King, that with a prosperous weird I may loose the hawsers, relying on thy counsel, and may the breeze blow softly with which we shall sail over the sea in fair weather.”

425 ἦ, καὶ ἅμ' εὐχολῇ προχύτας βάλε. τὼ δ' ἐπὶ βουσὶν
ζωσάσθην, Ἀγκαῖος ὑπέρβιος, Ἡρακλῆς τε.

ἦτοι ὁ μὲν ῥοπάλῳ μέσσον κάρη ἄμφι μέτωπα
πλῆξεν, ὁ δ' ἄθροος αὖθι πεσῶν ἐνερείσατο γαίῃ:
Ἀγκαῖος δ' ἑτέροιο κατὰ πλατὺν αὐχένα κόψας
430 χαλκείῳ πελέκει κρατεροὺς διέκερσε τένοντας:

ἦριπε δ' ἄμφοτέροισι περιρρηδῆς κεράεσσιν.
τοὺς δ' ἔταροι σφάζαν τε θοῶς, δεῖράν τε βοείας,
κόπτον, δαίτρευόν τε, καὶ ἱερὰ μῆρ' ἐτάμοντο,
κὰδ δ' ἅμυδις τάγε πάντα καλύψαντες πύκα δημῷ
435 καῖον ἐπὶ σχίζησιν: ὁ δ' ἀκρήτους χέε λειβὰς
Αἰσονίδης, γῆθει δὲ σέλας θηεύμενος Ἴδμων
πάντοσε λαμπόμενον θυέων ἅπο τοῖό τε λιγνὺν
πορφυρέαις ἐλίκεσσιν ἐναΐσιμον αἴσσουσιν:
αἶψα δ' ἀπηλεγέως νόον ἔκφατο Λητοῖδα:

440 ‘ὕμῖν μὲν δὴ μοῖρα θεῶν χρεῖώ τε περῆσαι
ἐνθάδε κῶας ἄγοντας: ἀπειρέσιοι δ' ἐνὶ μέσσω
κεῖσδε τε δεῦρό τ' ἔασιν ἀνερχομένοισιν ἄεθλοι.
αὐτὰρ ἐμοὶ θανέειν στυγερῇ ὑπὸ δαίμονος αἴσῃ
τηλόθι που πέπρωται ἐπ' Ἀσίδος ἡπείροιο.

445 ὧδε κακοῖς δεδαῶς ἔτι καὶ πάρος οἰωνοῖσιν
πότμον ἐμὸν πάτρης ἐξήιον, ὄφρ' ἐπιβαίῃν
νῆός, ἐκκλείη δὲ δόμοις ἐπιβάντι λίπηται.’

[425] He spake, and with his prayer cast the barley meal. And they two girded themselves to slay the steers, proud Ancaeus and Heracles. The latter with his club smote one steer mid-head on the brow, and falling in a heap on the spot, it sank to the ground; and Ancaeus struck the broad neck of the other with his axe of bronze, and shore through the mighty sinews; and it fell prone on both its horns. Their comrades quickly severed the victims’ throats, and flayed the hides: they sundered the joints and carved the flesh, then cut out the sacred

thigh bones, and covering them all together closely with fat burnt them upon cloven wood. And Aeson's son poured out pure libations, and Idmon rejoiced beholding the flame as it gleamed on every side from the sacrifice, and the smoke of it mounting up with good omen in dark spiral columns; and quickly he spake outright the will of Leto's son: "For you it is the will of heaven and destiny that ye shall return here with the fleece; but meanwhile both going and returning, countless trials await you. But it is my lot, by the hateful decree of a god, to die somewhere afar off on the mainland of Asia. Thus, though I learnt my fate from evil omens even before now, I have left my fatherland to embark on the ship, that so after my embarking fair fame may be left me in my house."

ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη: κοῦροι δὲ θεοπροπίης αἰόντες
νόστῳ μὲν γήθησαν, ἄχος δ' ἔλεν Ἴδμονος αἴση.
450 ἦμος δ' ἡέλιος σταθερὸν παραμείβεται ἡμαρ,
αἱ δὲ νέον σκοπέλοισιν ὑποσκιόωνται ἄρουραι,
δειελινὸν κλίνοντος ὑπὸ ζόφον ἡέλιιοι,
τῆμος ἄρ' ἤδη πάντες ἐπὶ ψαμάθοισι βαθεῖαν
φυλλάδα χευάμενοι πολιοῦ πρόπαρ αἰγιαλοῖο
455 κέκλινθ' ἐξείης: παρὰ δὲ σφισι μυρὶ ἔκειτο
εἶδατα, καὶ μέθυ λαρόν, ἀφυσσαμένων προχόησιν
οἶνοχών: μετέπειτα δ' ἀμοιβαδὶς ἀλλήλοισιν
μυθεῦνθ', οἷά τε πολλὰ νέοι παρὰ δαιτὶ καὶ οἶνω
τερπνῶς ἐψιόωνται, ὅτ' ἅατος ὕβρις ἀπεῖη.
460 ἔνθ' αὖτ' Αἰσονίδης μὲν ἀμήχανος εἰν ἐοῖ αὐτῷ
πορφύρεσκεν ἕκαστα κατηφίονντι ἐοικώς.
τὸν δ' ἄρ' ὑποφρασθεὶς μεγάλη ὀπί νεῖκεσεν Ἴδας:
'Αἰσονίδη, τίνα τήνδε μετὰ φρεσὶ μῆτιν ἐλίσσεις;
αὐδα ἐνὶ μέσσοισι τεδὸν νόον. ἥέ σε δαμνᾷ
465 τάρβος ἐπιπλόμενον, τό τ' ἀνάλκιδας ἄνδρας ἀτύζει;
ἵστω νῦν δόρυ θοῦρον, ὅτῳ περιώσιον ἄλλων
κῦδος ἐνὶ πτολέμοισιν αἰίρομαι, οὐδέ μ' ὀφέλλει
Ζεὺς τόσον, ὅσσάτιόν περ ἐμὸν δόρυ, μὴ νύ τι πῆμα
λοίγιον ἔσσεσθαι, μηδ' ἀκράαντον ἄεθλον
470 Ἴδεω ἐσπομένοιο, καὶ εἰ θεὸς ἀντίοφτο.
τοῖόν μ' Ἀρήνηθεν ἀοσητηῆρα κομίζεις.'

[448] Thus he spake; and the youths hearing the divine utterance rejoiced at their return, but grief seized them for the fate of Idmon. Now at the hour when the sun passes his noon-tide halt and the ploughlands are just being shadowed by the rocks, as the sun slopes towards the evening dusk, at that hour all the heroes spread leaves thickly upon the sand and lay down in rows in front of the hoary surf-line; and near them were spread vast stores of viands and sweet wine, which the cupbearers had drawn off in pitchers; afterwards they told tales one to another in turn, such as youths often tell when at the feast and the

bowl they take delightful pastime, and insatiable insolence is far away. But here the son of Aeson, all helpless, was brooding over each event in his mind, like one oppressed with thought. And Idas noted him and assailed him with loud voice: "Son of Aeson, what is this plan thou art turning over in mind. Speak out thy thought in the midst. Does fear come on and master thee, fear, that confounds cowards? Be witness now my impetuous spear, wherewith in wars I win renown beyond all others (nor does Zeus aid me so much as my own spear), that no woe will be fatal, no venture will be unachieved, while Idas follows, even though a god should oppose thee. Such a helpmeet am I that thou bringest from Arene."

ἦ, καὶ ἐπισχόμενος πλεῖον δέπας ἀμφοτέρησιν
πῖνε χαλίκρητον λαρὸν μέθυ: δεύετο δ' οἶνω
χεῖλεα, κυάνεαί τε γενειάδες: οἱ δ' ὁμάδησαν
475 πάντες ὁμῶς, Ἴδμων δὲ καὶ ἀμφοδίην ἀγόρευσεν:
'δαιμόνιε, φρονέεις ὀλοφώια καὶ πάρος αὐτῶ.
ἦέ τοι εἰς ἅτην ζωρὸν μέθυ θαρσαλέον κῆρ
οιδάνει ἐν στήθεσσι, θεοὺς δ' ἀνέηκεν ἀτίζειν;
ἄλλοι μῦθοι ἔασι παρήγοροι, οἷσί περ ἀνὴρ
480 θαρσύνοι ἔταρον: σὺ δ' ἀτάσθαλα πάμπαν ἔειπας,
τοῖα φάτις καὶ τοὺς πρὶν ἐπιφλύειν μακάρεσσιν
υἱας Ἀλωιάδας, οἷς οὐδ' ὅσον ἰσοφαρίζεις
ἡγορέην: ἔμπης δὲ θοοῖς ἐδάμησαν ὀιστοῖς
ἄμφω Λητοῖδαι, καὶ ἴφθιμοί περ ἐόντες.'

[472] He spake, and holding a brimming goblet in both hands drank off the unmixed sweet wine; and his lips and dark cheeks were drenched with it; and all the heroes clamoured together and Idmon spoke out openly: "Vain wretch, thou art devising destruction for thyself before the time. Does the pure wine cause thy bold heart to swell in thy breast to thy ruin, and has it set thee on to dishonour the gods? Other words of comfort there are with which a man might encourage his comrade; but thou hast spoken with utter recklessness. Such taunts, the tale goes, did the sons of Aloeus once blurt out against the blessed gods, and thou dost no wise equal them in valour; nevertheless they were both slain by the swift arrows of Leto's son, mighty though they were."

485 ὧς ἔφατ': ἐκ δ' ἐγέλασσαν ἄδῃν Ἀφαρήϊος Ἴδας
καὶ μιν ἐπιλλίζων ἡμεῖβετο κερτομίοισιν:
'ἄγρει νυν τόδε σῆσι θεοπροπίησιν ἐνίσπες,
εἰ καὶ ἐμοὶ τοιόνδε θεοὶ τελέουσιν ὄλεθρον,
οἷον Ἀλωιάδησι πατὴρ τεδὸς ἐγγυάλιζεν.
490 φράζεο δ' ὅπως χεῖρας ἐμάς σόος ἐξαλείοιο,
χρειῶ θεσπίζων μεταμώνιον εἴ κεν ἄλφης.'

[485] Thus he spake, and Aphareian Iclas laughed out, loud and long, and eyeing him askance replied with biting words: "Come now, tell me this by thy

prophetic art, whether for me too the gods will bring to pass such doom as thy father promised for the sons of Aloeus. And bethink thee how thou wilt escape from my hands alive, if thou art caught making a prophecy vain as the idle wind.”

Χώετ' ἐνιπτάζων· προτέρω δέ κε νεῖκος ἐτύχθη,
εἰ μὴ δηριόωντας ὁμοκλήσαντες ἐταῖροι
αὐτός τ' Αἰσονίδης κατερήτυεν· ἄν δὲ καὶ Ὀρφεὺς
495 λαίῃ ἀνασχόμενος κίθαριν πείραζεν ἀοιδῆς.

[492] Thus in wrath Idas reviled him, and the strife would have gone further had not their comrades and Aeson's son himself with indignant cry restrained the contending chiefs; and Orpheus lifted his lyre in his left hand and made essay to sing.

ἦειδεν δ' ὥς γαῖα καὶ οὐρανὸς ἠδὲ θάλασσα,
τὸ πρὶν ἐπ' ἀλλήλοισι μιῇ συναρηρότα μορφῇ,
νεῖκος ἐξ ὀλοοῖο διέκριθεν ἀμφὶς ἕκαστα·
ἠδ' ὥς ἔμπεδον αἰὲν ἐν αἰθέρι τέκμαρ ἔχουσιν
500 ἄστροι σελιγαίη τε καὶ ἡελίοιο κέλευθοι·
οὐρεά θ' ὥς ἀνέτειλε, καὶ ὥς ποταμοὶ κελάδοντες
αὐτῇσιν νύμφησι καὶ ἔρπετὰ πάντ' ἐγένοντο.
ἦειδεν δ' ὥς πρῶτον Ὀφίων Εὐρυνόμη τε
ᾠκεανὶς νιφόεντος ἔχον κράτος Οὐλύμποιο·
505 ὥς τε βίη καὶ χερσὶν ὁ μὲν Κρόνῳ εἴκαθε τιμῆς,
ἠ δὲ Ῥέῃ, ἔπεσον δ' ἐνὶ κύμασιν ᾠκεανοῖο·
οἱ δὲ τέως μακάρεσσι θεοῖς Τιτῇσιν ἄνασσον,
ὄφρα Ζεὺς ἔτι κοῦρος, ἔτι φρεσὶ νήπια εἰδώς,
Δικταῖον ναῖεσκεν ὑπὸ σπέος· οἱ δὲ μιν οὐπῶ
510 γηγενέες Κύκλωπες ἐκαρτύναντο κεραυνῷ,
βροντῇ τε στεροπῇ τε· τὰ γὰρ Διὶ κῦδος ὀπάξει.

[496] He sang how the earth, the heaven and the sea, once mingled together in one form, after deadly strife were separated each from other; and how the stars and the moon and the paths of the sun ever keep their fixed place in the sky; and how the mountains rose, and how the resounding rivers with their nymphs came into being and all creeping things. And he sang how first of all Ophion and Eurynome, daughter of Ocean, held the sway of snowy Olympus, and how through strength of arm one yielded his prerogative to Cronos and the other to Rhea, and how they fell into the waves of Ocean; but the other two meanwhile ruled over the blessed Titan-gods, while Zeus, still a child and with the thoughts of a child, dwelt in the Dictaeon cave; and the earthborn Cyclopes had not yet armed him with the bolt, with thunder and lightning; for these things give renown to Zeus.

ἦ, καὶ ὁ μὲν φόρμιγγα σὺν ἀμβροσίῃ σχέθεν αὐδῆ.

τοὶ δ' ἄμοτον λήξαντος ἔτι προύχοντο κάρηνα
πάντες ὁμῶς ὀρθοῖσιν ἐπ' οὐασιν ἡρεμέοντες
515 κηληθμῶ: τοῖόν σφιν ἐνέλλιπε θέλκτρον αἰοιδῆς.
οὐδ' ἐπὶ δὴν μετέπειτα κερασσάμενοι Διὶ λοιβάς,
ἦ θέμις, ἐστηῶτες ἐπὶ γλώσσησι χέοντο
αἰθομέναις, ὕπνου δὲ διὰ κνέφας ἐμνώνοντο.

[512] He ended, and stayed his lyre and divine voice. But though he had ceased they still bent forward with eagerness all hushed to quiet, with ears intent on the enchanting strain; such a charm of song had he left behind in their hearts. Not long after they mixed libations in honour of Zeus, with pious rites as is customary, and poured them upon the burning tongues, and bethought them of sleep in the darkness.

αὐτὰρ ὅτ' αἰγλήεσσα φαεινοῖς ὄμμασιν Ἡὼς
520 Πηλίου αἰπρινὰς ἴδεν ἄκριας, ἐκ δ' ἀνέμοιο
εὐδιοὶ ἐκλύζοντο τινασσομένης ἀλὸς ἄκραι,
δὴ τότε' ἀνέγρετο Τῖφος: ἄφαρ δ' ὀρόθυνεν ἐταίρους
βαιέμεναι τ' ἐπὶ νῆα καὶ ἀρτύνασθαι ἐρετμά.
σμερδαλέον δὲ λιμὴν Παγασῆιος ἡδὲ καὶ αὐτὴ
525 Πηλιάς ἴαχεν Ἀργῶ ἐπισπέρχουσα νέεσθαι.
ἐν γάρ οἱ δόρυ θεῖον ἐλήλατο, τό ρ' ἀνὰ μέσσην
στεῖραν Ἀθηναίῃ Δωδωνίδος ἥρμοσε φηγοῦ.
οἱ δ' ἀνὰ σέλματα βάντες ἐπισχερῶ ἀλλήλοισιν,
ὥς ἐδάσαντο πάροιθεν ἐρεσσέμεν ᾧ ἐνὶ χώρῳ,
530 εὐκόσμως σφετέροισι παρ' ἔντεσιν ἐδριόωντο.
μέσσω δ' Ἀγκαῖος μέγα τε σθένος Ἡρακλῆος
ἵζανον: ἄγχι δὲ οἱ ρόπαλον θέτο, καὶ οἱ ἔνερθεν
ποσσὶν ὑπεκλύσθη νηὸς τρόπις: εἴλκετο δ' ἦδη
πείσματα, καὶ μέθυ λείβον ὕπερθ' ἀλός. αὐτὰρ Ἰήσων
535 δακρυόεις γαίης ἀπὸ πατρίδος ὄμματ' ἔνεικεν.
οἱ δ', ὥστ' ἠΐθεοι Φοῖβῳ χορὸν ἦ ἐνὶ Πυθοῖ
ἦ που ἐν Ὀρτυγίῃ, ἦ ἐφ' ὕδασιν Ἰσμηνοῖο
στησάμενοι, φόρμιγγος ὑπαὶ περὶ βωμὸν ὁμαρτῇ
ἐμμελέως κραιπνοῖσι πέδον ρήσσωσι πόδεσσιν:
540 ᾧς οἱ ὑπ' Ὀρφῆος κιθάρῃ πέπληγον ἐρετμοῖς
πόντου λάβρον ὕδωρ, ἐπὶ δὲ ρόθια κλύζοντο:
ἀφρῶ δ' ἐνθα καὶ ἐνθα κελαινὴ κήκιεν ἄλμη
δεινὸν μορμύρουσα ἐρισθενέων μένει ἀνδρῶν.
στράπτε δ' ὑπ' ἡελίῳ φλογὶ εἵκελα νηὸς ἰούσης
545 τεύχεα: μακραί δ' αἰὲν ἔλευκαίνοντο κέλευθοι,
ἀτραπὸς ὥς χλοεροῖο διειδομένη πεδίοιο.
πάντες δ' οὐρανόθεν λεῦσσον θεοὶ ἤματι κείνῳ
νῆα καὶ ἡμιθέων ἀνδρῶν μένος, οἱ τότε' ἄριστοι
πόντον ἐπιπλώεσκον: ἐπ' ἀκροτάτῃσι δὲ νύμφαι

550 Πηλιάδες κορυφῇσιν ἐθάμβεον εἰσορόωσαι
ἔργον Ἀθηναίης Ἰτωνίδος, ἥδὲ καὶ αὐτοὺς
ἦρωας χεῖρεςσιν ἐπικραδάοντας ἐρετμά.
αὐτὰρ ὄγ' ἐξ ὑπάτου ὄρεος κίεν ἄγχι θαλάσσης
χείρων Φιλλυρίδης, πολὺ δ' ἐπὶ κύματος ἀγῇ
555 τέγγε πόδας, καὶ πολλὰ βαρεῖη χειρὶ κελεύων,
νόστον ἐπευφήμησεν ἀκηδέα νισσομένοισιν.
σὺν καὶ οἱ παράκοιτις ἐπωλένιον φορέουσα
Πηλεΐδην Ἀχιλῆα, φίλῳ δειδίσκετο πατρί.

[519] Now when gleaming dawn with bright eyes beheld the lofty peaks of Pelion, and the calm headlands were being drenched as the sea was ruffled by the winds, then Tiphys awoke from sleep; and at once he roused his comrades to go on board and make ready the oars. And a strange cry did the harbour of Pagasae utter, yea and Pelian Argo herself, urging them to set forth. For in her a beam divine had been laid which Athena had brought from an oak of Dodona and fitted in the middle of the stem. And the heroes went to the benches one after the other, as they had previously assigned for each to row in his place, and took their seats in due order near their fighting gear. In the middle sat Antaeus and mighty Heracles, and near him he laid his club, and beneath his tread the ship's keel sank deep. And now the hawsers were being slipped and they poured wine on the sea. But Jason with tears held his eyes away from his fatherland. And just as youths set up a dance in honour of Phoebus either in Pytho or haply in Ortygia, or by the waters of Ismenus, and to the sound of the lyre round his altar all together in time beat the earth with swiftly-moving feet; so they to the sound of Orpheus' lyre smote with their oars the rushing sea-water, and the surge broke over the blades; and on this side and on that the dark brine seethed with foam, boiling terribly through the might of the sturdy heroes. And their arms shone in the sun like flame as the ship sped on; and ever their wake gleamed white far behind, like a path seen over a green plain. On that day all the gods looked down from heaven upon the ship and the might of the heroes, half-divine, the bravest of men then sailing the sea; and on the topmost heights the nymphs of Pelion wondered as they beheld the work of Itonian Athena, and the heroes themselves wielding the oars. And there came down from the mountain-top to the sea Chiron, son of Philyra, and where the white surf broke he dipped his feet, and, often waving with his broad hand, cried out to them at their departure, "Good speed and a sorrowless home-return!" And with him his wife, bearing Peleus' son Achilles on her arm, showed the child to his dear father.

οἱ δ' ὅτε δὴ λιμένος περιγέα κάλλιπον ἀκτὴν
560 φραδμοσύνη μῆτι τε δαΐφρονος Ἀγνιάδαο
Τίφυος, ὅς ῥ' ἐνὶ χερσὶν ἐύζοα τεχνήντως
πηδάλι' ἀμφιέπεσκ', ὄφρ' ἐμπεδον ἐξιθύνει,
δὴ ῥα τότε μέγαν ἰστὸν ἐνεστήσαντο μεσόδμη,

δῆσαν δὲ προτόνοισι, τανυσσάμενοι ἐκάτερθεν,
 565 καὶ δ' αὐτοῦ λίνα χεῦαν, ἐπ' ἡλακάτην ἐρύσαντες.
 ἐν δὲ λιγὺς πέσεν οὔρος· ἐπ' ἰκριόφιν δὲ κάλωας
 ξεστῆσιν περόνησι διακριδὸν ἀμφιβαλόντες
 Τισαῖν εὐκηλοι ὑπὲρ δολιχὴν θεὸν ἄκρην.
 τοῖσι δὲ φορμίζων εὐθήμονι μέλπεν ἀοιδῇ
 570 Οἰάγροιο πάϊς νηοσσόον εὐπατέρειαν
 Ἄρτεμιν, ἥ κείνας σκοπιὰς ἀλὸς ἀμφιέπεσκεν
 ῥυομένη καὶ γαῖαν Ἰωλκίδα· τοὶ δὲ βαθείης
 ἰχθυὲς αἰσسونτες ὑπερθ' ἀλός, ἄμμιγα παύροις
 ἄπλετοι, ὕγρὰ κέλευθα διασκαίροντες ἔποντο.
 575 ὥς δ' ὁπότε ἄγραύλοιο κατ' ἵχνια σημαντῆρος
 μυρία μῆλ' ἐφέπονται ἄδην κεκορημένα ποίης
 εἰς αὖλιν, ὁ δὲ τ' εἴσι πάρος σύριγ γι λιγείῃ
 καλὰ μελιζόμενος νόμιον μέλος, ὥς ἄρα τοίγε
 ὠμάρτευν· τὴν δ' αἰὲν ἐπασσύτερος φέρεν οὔρος.

[559] Now when they had left the curving shore of the harbour through the cunning and counsel of prudent Tiphys son of Hagnias, who skilfully handled the well-polished helm that he might guide them steadfastly, then at length they set up the tall mast in the mastbox, and secured it with forestays, drawing them taut on each side, and from it they let down the sail when they had hauled it to the top-mast. And a breeze came down piping shrilly; and upon the deck they fastened the ropes separately round the well-polished pins, and ran quietly past the long Tisaeon headland. And for them the son of Oeagrus touched his lyre and sang in rhythmical song of Artemis, saviour of ships, child of a glorious sire, who hath in her keeping those peaks by the sea, and the land of Iolcos; and the fishes came darting through the deep sea, great mixed with small, and followed gambolling along the watery paths. And as when in the track of the shepherd, their master, countless sheep follow to the fold that have fed to the full of grass, and he goes before gaily piping a shepherd's strain on Iris shrill reed; so these fishes followed; and a chasing breeze ever bore the ship onward.

580 αὐτίκα δ' ἡερίη πολυλήϊος αἶα Πελασγῶν
 δύετο, Πηλιάδας δὲ παρεξήμειβον ἐρίπνας
 αἰὲν ἐπιπροθέοντες· ἔδυνε δὲ Σηπιάς ἄκρη,
 φαίνεται δ' εἰναλίη Σκίαθος, φαίνοντο δ' ἄπωθεν
 Πειρεσιαὶ Μάγνησά θ' ὑπεύδιος ἡπείροιο
 585 ἀκτὴ καὶ τύμβος Δολοπήϊος· ἐνθ' ἄρα τοίγε
 ἐσπέριοι ἀνέμοιο παλιμπνοίησιν ἔκελσαν,
 καὶ μιν κυδαίνοντες ὑπὸ κνέφας ἔντομα μῆλων
 κεῖαν, ὀρινομένης ἀλὸς οἴδματι· διπλόα δ' ἄκταῖς
 ἤματ' ἐλινύεσκον· ἀτὰρ τριτάτῳ προέηκαν
 590 νῆα, τανυσσάμενοι περιώσιον ὑψόθι λαῖφος.

τὴν δ' ἀκτὴν Ἀφέτας Ἀργοῦς ἔτι κικλήσκουσιν.

[580] And straightway the misty land of the Pelasgians, rich in cornfields, sank out of sight, and ever speeding onward they passed the rugged sides of Pelion; and the Sepian headland sank away, and Sciathus appeared in the sea, and far off appeared Piresiae and the calm shore of Magnesia on the mainland and the tomb of Dolops; here then in the evening, as the wind blew against them, they put to land, and paying honour to him at nightfall burnt sheep as victims, while the sea was tossed by the swell: and for two days they lingered on the shore, but on the third day they put forth the ship, spreading on high the broad sail. And even now men call that beach Aphetae of Argo.

ἐνθεν δὲ προτέρωσε παρεξέθεον Μελίβοιαν.
ἀκτὴν τ' αἰγιαλὸν τε δυσήνεμον εἰσορόωντες.
ἦῶθεν δ' Ὀμόλην αὐτοσχεδὸν εἰσορόωντες
595 πόντῳ κεκλιμένην παρεμέτρεον: οὐδ' ἔτι δηρὸν
μέλλον ὑπὲκ ποταμοῖο βαλεῖν Ἀμύροιο ῥέεθρα.
κεῖθεν δ' Εὐρυμενάς τε πολυκλύστους τε φάραγγας
Ὅσσης Οὐλύμποιο τ' ἐσέδρακον: αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα
κλίτεια Παλλήναια, Καναστραίην ὑπὲρ ἄκρην,
600 ἦνυσαν ἐννύχιοι πνοιῇ ἀνέμοιοι θέοντες.
ἦρι δὲ νισσομένοισιν Ἄθω ἀνέτελλε κολώνη
Θρηκίῃ, ἥ τόσσον ἀπόπροθι Λῆμνον ἐοῦσαν,
ὅσσον ἐς ἐνδιὸν κεν εὐστολος ὀλκὰς ἀνύσσαι,
ἀκροτάτῃ κορυφῇ σκιάει, καὶ ἐσάχρῃ Μυρίνης.
605 τοῖσιν δ' αὐτῆμαρ μὲν ἄεν καὶ ἐπὶ κνέφας οὔρος
πάγχυ μάλ' ἀκραίης, τετάνυστο δὲ λαίφεα νηός.
αὐτὰρ ἄμ' ἡελίοιο βολαῖς ἀνέμοιοι λιπόντος
εἰρεσίῃ κραναὴν Σιντιίδα Λῆμνον ἵκοντο.

[592] Thence going forward they ran past Meliboea, escaping a stormy beach and surf-line. And in the morning they saw Homole close at hand leaning on the sea, and skirted it, and not long after they were about to pass by the outfall of the river Amyrus. From there they beheld Eurymenae and the seawashed ravines of Ossa and Olympus; next they reached the slopes of Pallene, beyond the headland of Canastra, running all night with the wind. And at dawn before them as they journeyed rose Athos, the Thracian mountain, which with its topmost peak overshadows Lemnos, even as far as Myrine, though it lies as far off as the space that a well-trimmed merchantship would traverse up to mid-day. For them on that day, till darkness fell, the breeze blew exceedingly fresh, and the sails of the ship strained to it. But with the setting of the sun the wind left them, and it was by the oars that they reached Lemnos, the Sintian isle.

ἐνθ' ἄμυδις πᾶς δῆμος ὑπερβασίῃσι γυναικῶν
610 νηλειῶς δέδμητο παροιχομένῳ λυκάβαντι.

δὴ γὰρ κουριδίας μὲν ἀπηνήναντο γυναῖκας
 ἄνδρες ἐχθήραντες, ἔχον δ' ἐπὶ ληιάδεσσιν
 τρηχὺν ἔρον, ἃς αὐτοὶ ἀγίνεον ἀντιπέρηθεν
 Θρηκίην δηοῦντες· ἐπεὶ χόλος αἰνὸς ὄπαζεν
 615 Κύπιδος, οὐνεκά μιν γεράων ἐπὶ δηρὸν ἄτισσαν.
 ὦ μέλαι, ζήλοιο τ' ἐπισμυγερῶς ἀκόρητοι.
 οὐκ οἶον σὺν τῇσιν ἐοὺς ἔρραισαν ἀκοίτας
 ἄμφ' εὐνῇ, πᾶν δ' ἄρσεν ὁμοῦ γένος, ὥς κεν ὀπίσσω
 μήτινα λευγαλέοιο φόνου τίσειαν ἀμοιβήν.
 620 οἷη δ' ἐκ πασέων γεραροῦ περιφείσατο πατρός
 Ὑψιπύλεια Θόαντος, ὃ δὴ κατὰ δῆμον ἄνασσεν·
 λάρνακι δ' ἐν κοίλῃ μιν ὕπερθ' ἄλδος ἦκε φέρεσθαι,
 αἶ κε φύγῃ. καὶ τὸν μὲν ἐς Οἰνοίην ἐρύσαντο
 πρόσθεν, ἀτὰρ Σίκινόν γε μεθύστερον αὐδηθεῖσαν
 625 νῆσον, ἐπακτῆρες, Σικίνου ἄπο, τὸν ῥα Θόαντι
 νηιάς Οἰνοίῃ νύμφη τέκεν εὐνηθεῖσα.
 τῇσι δὲ βουκόλῳ τε βοῶν χάλκειά τε δύνειν
 τεύχεα, πυροφόρους τε διατμήξασθαι ἀροῦρας
 ῥήϊτερον πάσῃσιν Ἀθηναίης πέλεν ἔργων,
 630 οἷς αἰεὶ τὸ πάροιθεν ὀμίλειον. ἀλλὰ γὰρ ἔμπης
 ἦ θαμὰ δὴ πάπτεινον ἐπὶ πλατὺν ὄμμασι πόντον
 δέϊματι λευγαλέῳ, ὁπότε Θρήικες ἴασιν.
 τῷ καὶ ὅτ' ἐγγύθι νήσου ἐρεσσομένην ἴδον Ἀργῷ,
 αὐτίκα πασσυδίῃ πυλέων ἔκτοσθε Μυρίνης
 635 δῆια τεύχεα δῦσαι ἐς αἰγιαλὸν προχέοντο,
 Θυιάσιν ὠμοβόροις ἵκελαι· φάν γάρ που ἰκάνειν
 Θρήικας· ἡ δ' ἅμα τῇσι Θοαντιάς Ὑψιπύλεια
 δῶν' ἐνὶ τεύχεσι πατρός, ἀμηχανίῃ δ' ἐχέοντο
 ἄφθογγοι· τοῖόν σφιν ἐπὶ δέος ἠωρεῖτο.

[609] Here the whole of the men of the people together had been ruthlessly slain through the transgressions of the women in the year gone by. For the men had rejected their lawful wives, loathing them, and had conceived a fierce passion for captive maids whom they themselves brought across the sea from their forays in Thrace; for the terrible wrath of Cypris came upon them, because for a long time they had grudged her the honours due. O hapless women, and insatiate in jealousy to their own ruin! Not their husbands alone with the captives did they slay on account of the marriage-bed, but all the males at the same time, that they might thereafter pay no retribution for the grim murder. And of all the women, Hypsipyle alone spared her aged father Thoas, who was king over the people; and she sent him in a hollow chest, to drift over the sea, if haply he should escape. And fishermen dragged him to shore at the island of Oenoe, formerly Oenoe, but afterwards called Sicinus from Sicinus, whom the water-nymph Oenoe bore to Thoas. Now for all the women to tend kine, to don armour of bronze, and to cleave with the plough-share the wheat-

bearing fields, was easier than the works of Athena, with which they were busied aforetime. Yet for all that did they often gaze over the broad sea, in grievous fear against the Thracians' coming. So when they saw Argo being rowed near the island, straightway crowding in multitude from the gates of Myrine and clad in their harness of war, they poured forth to the beach like ravening Thyiades: for they deemed that the Thracians were come; and with them Hypsipyle, daughter of Thoas, donned her father's harness. And they streamed down speechless with dismay; such fear was wafted about them.

640 τείως δ' αὐτ' ἐκ νηὸς ἀριστῆες προέηκαν
Αἰθαλίδην κήρυκα θοόν, τῷπέρ τε μέλεσθαι
ἀγγελίας καὶ σκῆπτρον ἐπέτρεπον Ἑρμείας,
σφωιτέριοι τοκῆος, ὃ οἱ μνηστὶν πόρε πάντων
ἄφθιτον: οὐδ' ἔτι νῦν περ ἀποικομένου Ἀχέροντος
645 δῖνας ἀπροφάτους ψυχὴν ἐπιδέδρομε λήθῃ:
ἀλλ' ἤγ' ἔμπεδον αἰὲν ἀμειβομένη μεμόρηται,
ἄλλοθ' ὑποχθονίοις ἐναρίθμιος, ἄλλοτ' ἐς αὐγὰς
ἡελίου ζωοῖσι μετ' ἀνδράσιν. ἀλλὰ τί μύθους
Αἰθαλίδεω χρεῖώ με διηνεκέως ἀγορεύειν;
650 ὅς ῥα τόθ' Ὑψιπύλῃν μειλίζατο δέχθαι ἰόντας
ἤματος ἀνομένοιο διὰ κνέφας: οὐδὲ μὲν ἦοι
πείσματα νηὸς ἔλυσαν ἐπὶ πνοιῇ βορέας.

[640] Meantime from the ship the chiefs had sent Aethalides the swift herald, to whose care they entrusted their messages and the wand of Hermes, his sire, who had granted him a memory of all things, that never grew dim; and not even now, though he has entered the unspeakable whirlpools of Acheron, has forgetfulness swept over his soul, but its fixed doom is to be ever changing its abode; at one time to be numbered among the dwellers beneath the earth, at another to be in the light of the sun among living men. But why need I tell at length tales of Aethalides? He at that time persuaded Hypsipyle to receive the new-comers as the day was waning into darkness; nor yet at dawn did they loose the ship's hawsers to the breath of the north wind.

Λημνιάδες δὲ γυναῖκες ἀνὰ πόλιν ἵζον ἰοῦσαι
εἰς ἀγορὴν: αὐτὴ γὰρ ἐπέφραδεν Ὑψιπύλεια.
655 καὶ ῥ' ὅτε δὴ μάλα πᾶσαι ὁμιλαδὸν ἠγερέθοντο,
αὐτίκ' ἄρ' ἤγ' ἐνὶ τῇσιν ἐποτρύνουσ' ἀγόρευεν:
᾿Ωφίλαι, εἰ δ' ἄγε δὴ μενοεικέα δῶρα πόρωμεν
ἀνδράσιν, οἷά τ' ἔοικεν ἄγειν ἐπὶ νηὸς ἔχοντας,
ἦια, καὶ μέθυ λαρόν, ἴν' ἔμπεδον ἔκτοθι πύργων
660 μίμνοιεν, μηδ' ἄμμε κατὰ χρεῖώ μεθέποντες
ἀτρεκέως γνῶωσι, κακὴ δ' ἐπὶ πολλὸν ἴκηται
βάξις: ἐπεὶ μέγα ἔργον ἐρέξαμεν, οὐδέ τι πάμπαν
θυμηδὲς καὶ τοῖσι τόγ' ἔσσεται, εἴ κε δαεῖεν.

ἡμετέρη μὲν νῦν τοίῃ παρενήνοθε μῆτις·
665 ὕμέων δ' εἴ τις ἄρειον ἔπος μητίσεται ἄλλη,
ἐγρέσθω· τοῦ γάρ τε καὶ εἵνεκα δεῦρ' ἐκάλεσσα.'

[653] Now the Lemnian women fared through the city and sat down to the assembly, for Hypsipyle herself had so bidden. And when they were all gathered together in one great throng straightway she spake among them with stirring words: "O friends, come let us grant these men gifts to their hearts' desire, such as it is fitting that they should take on ship-board, food and sweet wine, in order that they may steadfastly remain outside our towers, and may not, passing among us for need's sake, get to know us all too well, and so an evil report be widely spread; for we have wrought a terrible deed and in nowise will it be to their liking, should they learn it. Such is our counsel now, but if any of you can devise a better plan let her rise, for it was on this account that I summoned you hither."

ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη, καὶ θῶκον ἐφίζανε πατρὸς ἐοῖο
λαίνον· αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα φίλῃ τροφῶς ὤρτο Πολυξῷ,
γῆραί δ' ἤ ρικνοῖσιν ἐπισκάζουσα πόδεσσιν,
670 βάκτρῳ ἐρειδομένη, περὶ δὲ μενέαιν' ἀγορεῦσαι.
τῇ καὶ παρθενικαὶ πίσυρες σχεδὸν ἐδριόωντο
ἀδμῆτες λευκῆσιν ἐπιχνοαούσῃ ἐθείραις.
στῇ δ' ἄρ' ἐνὶ μέσσῃ ἀγορῇ, ἀνὰ δ' ἔσχεθε δειρὴν
ἦκα μόλις κυφοῖο μεταφρένου, ὧδέ τ' ἔειπεν·
675 'δῶρα μὲν, ὥς αὐτῇ περ ἐφاندάνει Ὑψιπυλεῖ,
πέμπωμεν ξείνοισιν, ἐπεὶ καὶ ἄρειον ὀπάσσαι.
ὑμῖ γε μὴν τίς μῆτις ἐπαύρεσθαι βιότοιο,
αἶ κεν ἐπιβρίσῃ Θρήϊξ στρατός, ἥε τις ἄλλος
δυσμενέων, ἃ τε πολλὰ μετ' ἀνθρώποισι πέλονται;
680 ὥς καὶ νῦν ὃδ' ὁμιλος ἀνωίστως ἐφικάνει.
εἰ δὲ τὸ μὲν μακάρων τις ἀποτρέποι, ἄλλα δ' ὀπίσσω
μυρία δηιοτῆτος ὑπέρτερα πῆματα μίμνει,
εὖτ' ἂν δὴ γεραραὶ μὲν ἀποφθινύθωσι γυναῖκες,
κουρότεραι δ' ἄγονοι στυγερὸν ποτὶ γῆρας ἵκησθε.
685 πῶς τῆμος βώσεσθε δυσάμμοροι; ἦε βαθείαις
αὐτόματοι βόες ὕμμιν ἐνιζευχθέντες ἀρούραις
γαιοτόμον νειοῖο διειρύσουσιν ἄροτρον,
καὶ πρόκα τελλομένου ἔτεος στάχυν ἀμήσονται;
ἦ μὲν ἐγὼν, εἰ καὶ με τὰ νῦν ἔτι πεφρίκασιν
690 κῆρες, ἐπερχόμενόν που οἶομαι εἰς ἔτος ἦδη
γαῖαν ἐφέσσεσθαι, κτερέων ἀπὸ μοῖραν ἐλοῦσαν
αὐτῶς, ἥ θέμις ἐστί, πάρος κακότητα πελάσσαι.
ὀπλοτέρησι δὲ πάγχυ τάδε φράζεσθαι ἄνωγα.
νῦν γὰρ δὴ παρὰ ποσσὶν ἐπήβολός ἐστ' ἄλεωρή,
695 εἰ κεν ἐπιτρέψῃτε δόμους καὶ ληίδα πᾶσαν

ὁμητέρην ξείνοισι καὶ ἀγλαὸν ἄστν μέλεσθαι.’

[667] Thus she spake and sat upon her father’s seat of stone, and then rose up her dear nurse Polyxo, for very age halting upon her withered feet, bowed over a staff, and she was eager to address them. Near her were seated four virgins, unwedded, crowned with white hair. And she stood in the midst of the assembly and from her bent back she feebly raised her neck and spake thus: “Gifts, as Hypsipyle herself wishes, let us send to the strangers, for it is better to give them. But for you what device have ye to get profit of your life if the Thracian host fall upon us, or some other foe, as often happens among men, even as now this company is come unforeseen? But if one of the blessed gods should turn this aside yet countless other woes, worse than battle, remain behind, when the aged women die off and ye younger ones, without children, reach hateful old age. How then will ye live, hapless ones? Will your oxen of their own accord yoke themselves for the deep plough-lands and draw the earth-cleaving share through the fallow, and forthwith, as the year comes round, reap the harvest? Assuredly, though the fates till now have shunned me in horror, I deem that in the coming year I shall put on the garment of earth, when I have received my meed of burial even so as is right, before the evil days draw near. But I bid you who are younger give good heed to this. For now at your feet a way of escape lies open, if ye trust to the strangers the care of your homes and all your stock and your glorious city.”

ὥς ἔφατ’· ἐν δ’ ἀγορῇ πλῆτο θρόου. εὖαδε γάρ σφιν
μῦθος. ἀτὰρ μετὰ τήνγε παρασχεδὸν αὖτις ἀνῶρτο
Ἵψιπύλῃ, καὶ τοῖον ὑποβλήδην ἔπος ἤῤῥα:
700 ‘εἰ μὲν δὴ πάσῃσιν ἐφανεράναι ἦδε μενοινή,
ἦδη κεν μετὰ νῆα καὶ ἄγγελον ὀτρύναιμι.’

[697] Thus she spake, and the assembly was filled with clamour. For the word pleased them. And after her straightway Hypsipyle rose up again, and thus spake in reply. “If this purpose please you all, now will I even send a messenger to the ship.”

ἦ ῥα, καὶ Ἴφινόην μετεφώνεεν ἄσπον ἐοῦσαν:
‘ὄρσο μοι, Ἴφινόη, τοῦδ’ ἀνέρος ἀντιώσω,
ἡμέτερόνδε μολεῖν, ὅστις στόλου ἡγεμονεύει,
705 ὅφρα τί οἱ δῆμοιο ἔπος θυμῆρες ἐνίσπω:
καὶ δ’ αὐτοὺς γαίης τε καὶ ἄστεος, αἶ κ’ ἐθέλωσιν,
κέκλεο θαρσαλέως ἐπιβαίνεμεν εὐμενέοντας.’

[702] She spake and addressed Iphinoe close at hand: “Go, Iphinoe, and beg yonder man, whoever it is that leads this array, to come to our land that I may tell him a word that pleases the heart of my people, and bid the men themselves, if they wish, boldly enter the land and the city with friendly intent.”

ἦ, καὶ ἔλυσ' ἀγορήν, μετὰ δ' εἰς ἐὸν ὥρτο νέεσθαι.
ὥς δὲ καὶ Ἰφινόη Μινύας ἵκεθ'· οἱ δ' ἐρέεινον,
710 χρεῖος ὃ τι φρονέουσα μετήλυθεν. ὦκα δὲ τούσγε
πασσυσδίη μύθοισι προσέννεπεν ἐξερέοντας·
‘κούρη τοί μ' ἐφέηκε Θοαντιάς ἐνθάδ' ἰοῦσαν,
Ὑψιπύλῃ, καλέειν νηὸς πρόμον, ὅστις ὄρωρεν,
ὄφρα τί οἱ δῆμοιο ἔπος θυμῆρες ἐνίσπη·
715 καὶ δ' αὐτοὺς γαίης τε καὶ ἄστεος, αἱ κ' ἐθέλητε,
κέκλεται αὐτίκα νῦν ἐπιβαινέμεν εὐμενέοντας.’

[708] She spake, and dismissed the assembly, and thereafter started to return home. And so Iphinoe came to the Minyae; and they asked with what intent she had come among them. And quickly she addressed her questioners with all speed in these words: “The maiden Hypsipyle daughter of Thoas, sent me on my way here to you, to summon the captain of your ship, whoever he be, that she may tell him a word that pleases the heart of the people, and she bids yourselves, if ye wish it, straightway enter the land and the city with friendly intent.”

ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη· πάντεσσι δ' ἐναΐσιμος ἦνδανε μῦθος.
Ὑψιπύλῃν δ' εἶσαντο καταφθιμένοιο Θόαντος
τηλυγέτην γεγαυῖαν ἀνασσέμεν· ὦκα δὲ τόνγε
720 πέμπον ἴμεν, καὶ δ' αὐτοὶ ἐπεντύνοντο νέεσθαι.

[717] Thus she spake and the speech of good omen pleased all. And they deemed that Thoas was dead and that his beloved daughter Hypsipyle was queen, and quickly they sent Jason on his way and themselves made ready to go.

αὐτὰρ ὄγ' ἄμφ' ὥμοισι θεᾶς Τριτωνίδος ἔργον,
δίπλακα πορφυρέην περονήσατο, τὴν οἱ ὅπασσεν
Παλλάς, ὅτε πρῶτον δρυόχους ἐπεβάλλετο νηὸς
Ἀργοῦς, καὶ κανόνεσσι δάε ζυγὰ μετρήσασθαι.
725 τῆς μὲν ρῆϊτερόν κεν ἐς ἥλιον ἀνιόντα
ὅσσε βάλοις, ἢ κεῖνο μεταβλέψειας ἔρευθος.
δὴ γάρ τοι μέσση μὲν ἐρευθήεσσ' ἐτέτυκτο,
ἄκρα δὲ πορφυρέη πάντη πέλεν· ἐν δ' ἄρ' ἐκάστω
τέρματι δαίδαλα πολλὰ διακριδὸν εὖ ἐπέπαστο.

[721] Now he had buckled round his shoulders a purple mantle of double fold, the work of the Tritonian goddess, which Pallas had given him when she first laid the keel-props of the ship Argo and taught him how to measure timbers with the rule. More easily wouldst thou cast thy eyes upon the sun at its rising than behold that blazing splendour. For indeed in the middle the fashion thereof was red, but at the ends it was all purple, and on each margin many separate devices had been skilfully inwoven.

730 ἐν μὲν ἔσαν Κύκλωπες ἐπ' ἀφθίτῳ ἡμενοι ἔργῳ,
Ζηνὶ κεραυνὸν ἄνακτι πονεῦμενοι: ὃς τόσον ἦδη
παμφαίνων ἐτέτυκτο, μῆς δ' ἔτι δεῦτεο μόνον
ἀκτῖνος, τὴν οἶδε σιδηρεῖης ἐλάσσκον
σφύρησιν, μαλεροῖο πυρὸς ζείουσιν ἀντμήν.

[730] In it were the Cyclops seated at their imperishable work, forging a thunderbolt for King Zeus; by now it was almost finished in its brightness and still it wanted but one ray, which they were beating out with their iron hammers as it spurted forth a breath of raging flame.

735 ἐν δ' ἔσαν Ἀντιόπης Ἀσωπίδος υἱέε δοιῶ,
Ἀμφίων καὶ Ζῆθος: ἀπύργωτος δ' ἔτι Θῆβη
κεῖτο πέλας, τῆς οἴγε νέον βάλλοντο δομαίους
ἰέμενοι. Ζῆθος μὲν ἐπωμαδὸν ἡέρταζεν
οὔρεος ἡλιβάτοιο κάρη, μογέοντι ἐοικώς:
740 Ἀμφίων δ' ἐπὶ οἱ χρυσέῃ φόρμιγγι λιγαίνων
ἦε, δις τόσση δὲ μετ' ἔχνια νίσσεται πέτρῃ

[735] In it too were the twin sons of Antiope, daughter of Asopus, Amphion and Zethus, and Thebe still ungirt with towers was lying near, whose foundations they were just then laying in eager haste. Zethus on his shoulders was lifting the peak of a steep mountain, like a man toiling hard, and Amphion after him, singing loud and clear on his golden lyre, moved on, and a rock twice as large followed his footsteps.

ἐξείης δ' ἥσκητο βαθυπλόκαμος Κυθήρεια
Ἄρεος ὀχμάζουσα θοὸν σάκος: ἐκ δὲ οἱ ὤμου
πῆχυν ἐπὶ σκαῖον ξυνοχὴ κεχάλαστο χιτῶνος
745 νέρθεν ὑπὲκ μαζοῖο: τὸ δ' ἀντίον ἀτρεκέως αὐτῶς
χαλκεῖη δεικλὸν ἐν ἀσπίδι φαίνεται ἰδέσθαι.

[742] Next in order had been wrought Cytherea with drooping tresses, wielding the swift shield of Ares; and from her shoulder to her left arm the fastening of her tunic was loosed beneath her breast; and opposite in the shield of bronze her image appeared clear to view as she stood.

ἐν δὲ βοῶν ἔσκειν λάσιος νομός: ἀμφὶ δὲ βουσὶν
Τηλεβόαι μάρναντο καὶ υἱέες Ἠλεκτρύωνος:
οἱ μὲν ἀμυνόμενοι, ἅτ' οἳ ἐθέλοντες ἀμέρσαι,
750 ληισταὶ Τάφιοι: τῶν δ' αἵματι δεῦτεο λειμῶν
ἑρσῆεις, πολέες δ' ὀλίγους βιόωντο νομῆας.

[747] And in it there was a well-wooded pasturage of oxen; and about the oxen the Teleboae and the sons of Eleetryon were fighting; the one party defending themselves, the others, the Taphian raiders, longing to rob them; and the dewy meadow was drenched with their blood, and the many were overmastering the

few herdsmen.

ἐν δὲ δύω δίφροι πεπονήατο δηριόωντες.
καὶ τὸν μὲν προπάροιθε Πέλοψ ἵθυνε, τινάσσων
ἡνία, σὺν δέ οἱ ἔσκε παραιβάτις Ἴποδάμεια:
755 τὸν δὲ μεταδρομάδην ἐπὶ Μυρτίλος ἤλασεν ἵππους,
σὺν τῷ δ' Οἰνόμαος προτενὲς δόρυ χειρὶ μεμαρπῶς

[752] And therein were fashioned two chariots, racing, and the one in front Pelops was guiding, as he shook the reins, and with him was Hippodameia at his side, and in pursuit Myrtilus urged his steeds, and with him Oenomaus had grasped his couched spear, but fell as the axle swerved and broke in the nave, while he was eager to pierce the back of Pelops.

ἄξονος ἐν πλήμνησι παρακλιδὸν ἀγνυμένοιο
πίπτεν, ἐπεσσύμενος Πελοπῆα νῶτα δαΐζαι.
ἐν καὶ Απόλλων Φοῖβος οἰστεύων ἐτέτυκτο,
760 βούπαις οὐπὼ πολλός, ἔην ἐρύοντα καλύπτρης
μητέρα θαρσαλέως Τιτυὸν μέγαν, ὃν ῥ' ἔτεκέν γε
δῖ' Ἑλάρη, θρέψεν δὲ καὶ ἄν' ἐλογεύσατο Γαῖα.

[759] And in it was wrought Phoebus Apollo, a stripling not yet grown up, in the act of shooting at mighty Tityos who was boldly dragging his mother by her veil, Tityos whom glorious Elate bare, but Earth nursed him and gave him second birth.

ἐν καὶ Φρίξος ἔην Μινυήιος ὥς ἐτεόν περ
εἰσαῖων κριοῦ, ὁ δ' ἄρ' ἐξενέποντι ἐοικώς.
765 κείνους κ' εἰσορόων ἀκέοις, ψεύδοιό τε θυμόν,
ἐλπόμενος πυκινὴν τιν' ἀπὸ σφείων ἐσακοῦσαι
βάξιν, ὃ καὶ δηρόν περ ἐπ' ἐλπίδι θηήσαιο.

[763] And in it was Phrixus the Minyan as though he were in very deed listening to the ram, while it was like one speaking. Beholding them thou wouldst be silent and wouldst cheat thy soul with the hope of hearing some wise speech from them, and long wouldst thou gaze with that hope.

τοῖ' ἄρα δῶρα θεᾶς Τριτωνίδος ἦεν Ἀθήνης.
δεξιτερῇ δ' ἔλεν ἔγχος ἐκηβόλον, ὃ ῥ' Ἀταλάντη
770 Μαινάλῳ ἔν ποτέ οἱ ξεινήιον ἐγγυάλιξεν,
πρόφρων ἀντομένη: περὶ γὰρ μενέαιεν ἔπεσθαι
τὴν ὁδόν: ἀλλὰ γὰρ αὐτὸς ἐκὼν ἀπερήτυε κούρην,
δεῖσεν δ' ἀργαλέας ἔριδας φιλότῃτος ἔκῃτι.

[768] Such then were the gifts of the Tritonian goddess Athena. And in his right hand Jason held a fardarting spear, which Atalanta gave him once as a gift of hospitality in Maenalus as she met him gladly; for she eagerly desired to

follow on that quest; but he himself of his own accord prevented the maid, for he feared bitter strife on account of her love.

βῆ δ' ἵμεναι προτὶ ἄστν, φαεινῷ ἀστέρι ἴσος,
775 ὃν ῥά τε νηγατέησιν ἐεργόμεναι καλύβησιν
νύμφαι θηήσαντο δόμων ὕπερ ἀντέλλοντα,
καὶ σφισι κυανέοιο δι' ἡέρος ὄμματα θέλγει
καλὸν ἐρευνθόμενος, γάννυται δέ τε ἡιθέοιο
παρθένος ἰμείρουσα μετ' ἄλλοδαποῖσιν ἐόντος
780 ἀνδράσιν, ᾧ καὶ μιν μνηστήν κομέουσι τοκῆς·
τῷ ἵκελος πρὸ πόληος ἀνὰ στίβον ἦιεν ἥρως.
καὶ ῥ' ὅτε δὴ πυλέων τε καὶ ἄστεος ἐντὸς ἔβησαν,
δημότεραι μὲν ὀπισθεν ἐπεκλονέοντο γυναιῖκες,
γηθόσυναι ξείνῳ· ὁ δ' ἐπὶ χθονὸς ὄμματ' ἐρείσας
785 νίσσεται ἀπληγέως, ὄφρ' ἀγλαὰ δώμαθ' ἵκανε
Ἵψιπύλης· ἄνεσαν δὲ πύλας προφανέντι θεράπναι
δικλίδας, εὐτύκτοισιν ἀρρηρεμένας σανίδεσσιν.
ἐνθα μιν Ἴφινὴ κλισμῷ ἐνὶ παμφανόωντι
ἐσσυμένως καλῆς διὰ παστάδος εἶσεν ἄγουσα
790 ἀντία δεσποίνης· ἡ δ' ἐγκλιδὸν ὅσσε βαλοῦσα
παρθενικὰς ἐρύθηγε παρηίδας· ἔμπα δὲ τόνγε
αἰδομένη μύθοισι προσέννεπεν αἰμυλίοισιν·
ἔξεινε, τίη μίμοντες ἐπὶ χρόνον ἔκτοθι πύργων
ἦσθ' αὐτως· ἐπεὶ οὐ μὲν ὑπ' ἀνδράσι ναίεται ἄστν,
795 ἀλλὰ Θρηκίης ἐπινάστιοι ἡπείριοιο
πυροφόρους ἀρόωσι γύας· κακότητα δὲ πᾶσαν
ἐξέρῳ νημερτές, ἴν' εὖ γνοίητε καὶ αὐτοί.
εὖτε Θόας ἀστοῖσι πατὴρ ἐμὸς ἐμβασίλευεν,
τηνίκα Θρηκίην, οἳ τ' ἀντία ναιετάουσιν,
800 δῆμου ἀπορνύμενοι λαοὶ πέρθεσκον ἐπαύλους
ἐκ νηῶν, αὐτῇσι δ' ἀπείρονα ληίδα κούραις
δεῦρ' ἄγον· οὐλομένης δὲ θεᾶς πορσύνετο μῆτις
Κύπριδος, ἡ τέ σφιν θυμοφθόρον ἔμβαλεν ἄτην.
δὴ γὰρ κουριδίας μὲν ἀπέστυγον, ἐκ δὲ μελάθρων,
805 ἡ ματὶ ἑῖξαντες, ἀπεσσεύοντο γυναιῖκας·
αὐτὰρ ληιάδεσσι δορικτήταις παρίανον,
σχέτλιοι· ἡ μὲν δηρὸν ἐτέτλαμεν, εἰ κέ ποτ' αὖτις
ὄψε μεταστρέψωσι νόον· τὸ δὲ διπλόον αἰεὶ
πῆμα κακὸν προύβαινε·ν· ἀτιμάζοντο δὲ τέκνα
810 γνήσι' ἐνὶ μεγάροις, σκοτὶ δ' ἀνέτελλε γενέθλη.
αὐτως δ' ἀδμητές τε κόραι, χῆραί τ' ἐπὶ τῇσιν
μητέρες ἄμ' πτολίεθρον ἀτημελέες ἀλάληντο.
οὐδὲ πατὴρ ὀλίγον περ ἐῆς ἀλέγιζε θυγατρός,
εἰ καὶ ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖσι δαΐζομένην ὀρόωτο
815 μητρυνῆς ὑπὸ χερσὶν ἀτασθάλου· οὐδ' ἀπὸ μητρὸς

λάβην, ὥς τὸ πάροιθεν, ἀικέα παῖδες ἄμυνον·
οὐδὲ κασιγνήτοισι κασιγνήτη μελε θυμῷ.
ἀλλ' οἶαι κοῦραι ληϊτίδες ἔν τε δόμοισιν
ἔν τε χοροῖς ἀγορῇ τε καὶ εἰλαπίνῃσι μέλοντο·
820 εἰσόκε τις θεὸς ἄμμιν ὑπέρβιον ἔμβαλε θάρσος,
ἄψ ἀναερχομένους Θρηκῶν ἄπο μηκέτι πύργους
δέχθαι, ἴν' ἡ φρονέοιεν ἄπερ θέμις, ἡέ πη ἄλλη
αὐταῖς ληιάδεσσιν ἀφορμηθέντες ἴκοιντο.
οἱ δ' ἄρα θεοσάμενοι παίδων γένος, ὅσσον ἔλειπτο
825 ἄρσεν ἀνὰ πτολίεθρον, ἔβαν ἅλιν, ἔνθ' ἔτι νῦν περ
Θρηκίης ἄροσιν χιονώδεα ναιετάουσιν.
τῷ ὑμεῖς στρωφᾶσθ' ἐπιδήμιοι· εἰ δέ κεν αὖθι
ναιετάειν ἐθέλοις, καὶ τοι ἄδοι, ἦ τ' ἂν ἔπειτα
πατρὸς ἐμεῖο Θόαντος ἔχouis γέρας· οὐδέ τί σ' οἶω
830 γαῖαν ὀνόσσεσθαι· περὶ γὰρ βαθυλήϊος ἄλλων
νήσων, Αἰγαίῃ ὅσαι εἰν ἅλι ναιετάουσιν.
ἀλλ' ἄγε νῦν ἐπὶ νῆα κιὼν ἐτάροισιν ἐνίσπες
μύθους ἡμετέρους, μῆδ' ἔκτοθι μίμνε πόληος.'

[774] And he went on his way to the city like to a bright star, which maidens, pent up in new-built chambers, behold as it rises above their homes, and through the dark air it charms their eyes with its fair red gleam and the maid rejoices, love-sick for the youth who is far away amid strangers, for whom her parents are keeping her to be his bride; like to that star the hero trod the way to the city. And when they had passed within the gates and the city, the women of the people surged behind them, delighting in the stranger, but he with his eyes fixed on the ground fared straight on, till he reached the glorious palace of Hypsipyle; and when he appeared the maids opened the folding doors, fitted with well-fashioned panels. Here Iphinoe leading him quickly through a fair porch set him upon a shining seat opposite her mistress, but Hypsipyle turned her eyes aside and a blush covered her maiden cheeks, yet for all her modesty she addressed him with crafty words: "Stranger, why stay ye so long outside our towers? for the city is not inhabited by the men, but they, as sojourners, plough the wheat-bearing fields of the Thracian mainland. And I will tell out truly all our evil plight, that ye yourselves too may know it well. When my father Thoas reigned over the citizens, then our folk starting from their homes used to plunder from their ships the dwellings of the Thracians who live opposite, and they brought back hither measureless booty and maidens too. But the counsel of the baneful goddess Cypris was working out its accomplishment, who brought upon them soul destroying infatuation. For they hated their lawful wives, and, yielding to their own mad folly, drove them from their homes; and they took to their beds the captives of their spear, cruel ones. Long in truth we endured it, if haply again, though late, they might change their purpose, but ever the bitter woe grew, twofold. And the lawful children were being dishonoured in their halls, and a bastard race was rising.

And thus unmarried maidens and widowed mothers too wandered uncared for through the city; no father heeded his daughter ever so little even though he should see her done to death before his eyes at the hands of an insolent step-dame, nor did sons, as before, defend their mother against unseemly outrage; nor did brothers care at heart for their sister. But in their homes, in the dance, in the assembly and the banquet all their thought was only for their captive maidens; until some god put desperate courage in our hearts no more to receive our lords on their return from Thrace within our towers so that they might either heed the right or might depart and begone elsewhither, they and their captives. So they begged of us all the male children that were left in the city and went back to where even now they dwell on the snowy tilths of Thrace. Do ye therefore stay and settle with us; and shouldst thou desire to dwell here, and this finds favour with thee, assuredly thou shalt have the prerogative of my father Thoas; and I deem that thou wilt not scorn our land at all; for it is deepsoiled beyond all other islands that lie in the Aegæan sea. But come now, return to the ship and relate my words to thy comrades, and stay not outside our city.”

Ἴσκεν, ἀμαλδύνουσα φόνου τέλος, οἷον ἐτύχθη
 835 ἀνδράσιν: αὐτὰρ ὁ τήγγε παραβλήδην προσέειπεν
 “Ὑψιπύλη, μάλα κεν θυμηδέος ἀντιάσαιμεν
 χρημοσύνης, ἦν ἄμμι σέθεν χατέουσιν ὀπάξεις.
 εἼμι δ’ ὑπότροπος αὖτις ἀνὰ πτόλιν, εὔτ’ ἂν ἕκαστα
 ἐξείπω κατὰ κόσμον. ἀνακτορὶη δὲ μελέσθω
 840 σοίγ’ αὐτῇ καὶ νῆσος: ἔγωγε μὲν οὐκ ἀθερίζω
 χάζομαι, ἀλλὰ με λυγροὶ ἐπισπέρχουσιν ἄεθλοι.”

[834] She spoke, glozing over the murder that had been wrought upon the men; and Jason addressed her in answer: “Hypsipyle, very dear to our hearts is the help we shall meet with, which thou grantest to us who need thee. And I will return again to the city when I have told everything in order due. But let the sovereignty of the island be thine; it is not in scorn I yield it up, but grievous trials urge me on.”

ἦ, καὶ δεξιτερῆς χειρὸς θίγεν: αἶψα δ’ ὀπίσσω
 βῆ ῥ’ ἵμεν, ἀμφὶ δὲ τόνγε νεήνιδες ἄλλοθεν ἄλλαι
 μυρίαὶ εἰλίσσοντο κεχαρμέναι, ὄφρα πυλάων
 845 ἐξέμολεν. μετέπειτα δ’ ἐντροχάλοισιν ἀμάξαις
 ἀκτὴν εἰσαπέβαν, ξεινήια πολλὰ φέρουσαι,
 μῦθον ὅτ’ ἤδη πάντα διηνεκέως ἀγόρευσεν,
 τὸν ῥα καλεσσομένη διεπέφραδεν Ὑψιπύλεια:
 καὶ δ’ αὐτοὺς ξεινοῦσθαι ἐπὶ σφέα δώματ’ ἄγεσκον
 850 ῥηιδίως. Κύπρις γὰρ ἐπὶ γλυκὺν ἥμερον ὥρσεν
 Ἥφαιστοιο χάριν πολυμήτιος, ὄφρα κεν αὖτις
 ναίηται μετόπισθεν ἀκήρατος ἀνδράσι Λῆμνος.

[842] He spake, and touched her right hand; and quickly he turned to go back: and round him the young maids on every side danced in countless numbers in their joy till he passed through the gates. And then they came to the shore in smooth-running wains, bearing with them many gifts, when now he had related from beginning to end the speech which Hypsipyle had spoken when she summoned them; and the maids readily led the men back to their homes for entertainment. For Cypris stirred in them a sweet desire, for the sake of Hephaestus of many counsels, in order that Lemnos might be again inhabited by men and not be ruined.

ἐνθ' ὁ μὲν Ὑψιπύλης βασιλήιον ἐς δόμον ὤρτο
Αἰσονίδης: οἱ δ' ἄλλοι ὅπη καὶ ἔκυρσαν ἕκαστος,

855 Ἡρακλῆος ἄνευθεν, ὁ γὰρ παρὰ νηὶ λέλειπτο
αὐτὸς ἐκὼν παῦροί τε διακρινθέντες ἐταῖροι.

αὐτίκα δ' ἄστυ χοροῖσι καὶ εἰλαπίνῃσι γεγῆθει
καπνῷ κνισήεντι περίπλεον: ἔξοχα δ' ἄλλων
ἀθανάτων Ἥρης υἷα κλυτὸν ἠδὲ καὶ αὐτὴν

860 Κύπριν ἀοιδῆσιν θυέσσιν τε μελίσσοντο.

ἀμβολίῃ δ' εἰς ἡμᾶρ αἰεὶ ἐξ ἡματος ἦεν
ναυτιλίης: δηρὸν δ' ἂν ἐλίνυον αὐθι μένοντες,
εἰ μὴ ἀολλίσσας ἐτάρους ἀπάνευθε γυναικῶν
Ἡρακλῆς τοίοισιν ἐνιπτάζων μετέειπεν:

865 'δαιμόνιοι, πάτρης ἐμφύλιον αἶμ' ἀποέργει

ἡμέας; ἦε γάμων ἐπιδευέες ἐνθάδ' ἔβημεν
κεῖθεν, ὀνοσσάμενοι πολιήτιδας; αὐθι δ' ἔαδεν
ναίοντας λιπαρὴν ἄροσιν Λήμνοιο ταμέσθαι;

οὐ μὰν εὐκλειεῖς γε σὺν ὀθνεῖσιν γυναιξίν

870 ἐσσόμεθ' ὧδ' ἐπὶ δηρὸν ἐλμένοι: οὐδέ τι κῶας

αὐτόματον δώσει τις ἐλὼν θεὸς εὐξαμένοισιν.

ἴομεν αὐτίς ἕκαστοι ἐπὶ σφέα: τὸν δ' ἐνὶ λέκτροις

Ὑψιπύλης εἶατε πανήμερον, εἰσόκε Λῆμνον

παῖσιν ἐσανδρώσῃ, μεγάλη τέ ἐ βάξις ἴκηται.'

[853] Thereupon Aeson's son started to go to the royal home of Hypsipyle; and the rest went each his way as chance took them, all but Heracles; for he of his own will was left behind by the ship and a few chosen comrades with him. And straightway the city rejoiced with dances and banquets, being filled with the steam of sacrifice; and above all the immortals they propitiated with songs and sacrifices the illustrious son of Hera and Cypris herself. And the sailing was ever delayed from one day to another; and long would they have lingered there, had not Heracles, gathering together his comrades apart from the women, thus addressed them with reproachful words: "Wretched men, does the murder of kindred keep us from our native land? Or is it in want of marriage that we have come hither from thence, in scorn of our countrywomen? Does it please us to dwell here and plough the rich soil of

Lemnos? No fair renown shall we win by thus tarrying so long with stranger women; nor will some god seize and give us at our prayer a fleece that moves of itself. Let us then return each to his own; but him leave ye to rest all day long in the embrace of Hypsipyle until he has peopled Lemnos with men-children, and so there come to him great glory.”

875 ὥς νείκεσσαν ὄμιλον· ἐναντία δ’ οὐ νύ τις ἔτλη
ὄμματ’ ἀνασχεθέειν, οὐδὲ προτιμυθήσασθαι·
ἀλλ’ αὐτως ἀγορήθεν ἐπαρτίζοντο νέεσθαι
σπερχόμενοι. τὰ δέ σφιν ἐπέδραμον, εὐτ’ ἐδάησαν.
ὥς δ’ ὅτε λείρια καλὰ περιβρομέουσι μέλισσαι
880 πέτρης ἐκχύμεναι σιμβληίδος, ἀμφὶ δὲ λειμῶν
ἑρσῆεις γάνυται, τὰ δὲ γλυκὺν ἄλλοτε ἄλλον
καρπὸν ἀμέργουσιν πεποτημένοι· ὥς ἄρα ταίγε
ἐνδुकὲς ἀνέρας ἀμφὶ κινυρόμεναι προχέοντο,
χερσὶ τε καὶ μύθοισιν ἐδεικνύοντο ἕκαστον,
885 εὐχόμεναι μακάρεσσιν ἀπήμονα νόστον ὀπάσσαι.
ὥς δὲ καὶ Ὑψιπύλη ἠρήσατο χεῖρας ἐλοῦσα
Αἰσονίδεω, τὰ δὲ οἱ ῥέε δάκρυα χήτει ἰόντος·
‘Νίσσεο, καὶ σὲ θεοὶ σὺν ἀπηρέσιν αὐτὶς ἐταίροις
χρῦσειον βασιλῆι δέρος κομίσειαν ἄγοντα
890 αὐτως, ὥς ἐθέλεις καὶ τοι φίλον. ἦδε δὲ νῆσος
σκῆπτρά τε πατὴρ ἐμεῖο παρέσσεται, ἦν καὶ ὀπίσσω
δὴ ποτε νοστήσας ἐθέλης ἄψορρον ἰκέσθαι.
ῥηιδίως δ’ ἂν εὐοῖ καὶ ἀπείρονα λαὸν ἀγείραις
ἄλλων ἐκ πολίων· ἀλλ’ οὐ σύγε τήνδε μενοινήν
895 σχήσεις, οὔτ’ αὐτὴ προτιόσσομαι ὧδε τελεῖσθαι.
μνώεο μὴν ἀπεῶν περ ὁμῶς καὶ νόστιμος ἦδη
Ὑψιπύλης· λίπε δ’ ἥμιν ἔπος, τό κεν ἐξανύσαιμι
πρόφρων, ἦν ἄρα δὴ με θεοὶ δώωσι τεκέσθαι.’

[875] Thus did he chide the band; but no one dared to meet his eye or to utter a word in answer. But just as they were in the assembly they made ready their departure in all haste, and the women came running towards them, when they knew their intent. And as when bees hum round fair lilies pouring forth from their hive in the rock, and all around the dewy meadow rejoices, and they gather the sweet fruit, flitting from one to another; even so the women eagerly poured forth clustering round the men with loud lament, and greeted each one with hands and voice, praying the blessed gods to grant him a safe return. And so Hypsipyle too prayed, seizing the hands of Aeson’s son, and her tears flowed for the loss of her lover: “Go, and may heaven bring thee back again with thy comrades unharmed, bearing to the king the golden fleece, even as thou wilt and thy heart desireth; and this island and my father’s sceptre will be awaiting thee, if on thy return hereafter thou shouldst choose to come hither again; and easily couldst thou gather a countless host of men from other cities.

But thou wilt not have this desire, nor do I myself forbode that so it will be. Still remember Hypsipyle when thou art far away and when thou hast returned; and leave me some word of bidding, which I will gladly accomplish, if haply heaven shall grant me to be a mother.”

τὴν δ' αὖτ' Αἴσονος υἱὸς ἀγαιόμενος προσέειπεν:

900 “Υψιπύλῃ, τὰ μὲν οὕτω ἐναίσιμα πάντα γένοιτο

ἐκ μακάρων: τὴν δ' ἐμέθεν πέρι θυμὸν ἄρειά

ἴσχαν', ἐπεὶ πάτρην μοι ἄλλῃς Πελῖαο ἔκητι

ναιετάειν: μούνον με θεοὶ λύσειαν ἀέθλων.

εἰ δ' οὐ μοι πέπρωται ἐς Ἑλλάδα γαῖαν ἰκέσθαι

905 τῖλ' οὐκ ἀναπλῶντι, σὺ δ' ἄρσενά παῖδα τέκῃαι,

πέμπε μιν ἡβήσαντα Πελασγίδος ἔνδον Ἰωλκοῦ

πατρί τ' ἐμῷ καὶ μητρὶ δύης ἄκος, ἣν ἄρα τούσγε

τέτμη ἔτι ζῶοντας, ἵν' ἀνδῖχα τοῖο ἀνακτος

σφοῖσιν πορσύνωνται ἐφέστιοι ἐν μεγάροισιν.”

[899] And Aeson's son in admiration thus replied: “Hypsipyle, so may all these things prove propitious by the favour of the blessed gods. But do thou hold a nobler thought of me, since by the grace of Pelias it is enough for me to dwell in my native land; may the gods only release me from my toils. But if it is not my destiny to sail afar and return to the land of Hellas, and if thou shouldst bear a male child, send him when grown up to Pelasgian Iolcus, to heal the grief of my father and mother if so be that he find them still living, in order that, far away from the king, they may be cared for by their own hearth in their home.”

910 ἦ, καὶ ἔβαιν' ἐπὶ νῆα παροίτατος: ὥς δὲ καὶ ἄλλοι

βαῖνον ἀριστῆες: λάζοντο δὲ χερσὶν ἐρετμὰ

ἐνσχερῶ ἐζόμενοι: πρυμνήσια δὲ σφισιν Ἄργος

λῦσεν ὑπὲκ πέτρης ἀλιμυρέος. ἔνθ' ἄρα τοίγε

κόπτον ὕδωρ δολιχῆσιν ἐπικρατέως ἐλάττησιν.

915 ἐσπέριοι δ' Ὀρφεὺς ἐφημοσύνησιν ἔκελσαν

νῆσον ἐς Ἠλέκτρης Ἀτλαντίδος, ὄφρα δαέντες

ἄρρήτους ἀγανῆσι τελεσφορήσι θέμιστας

σωότεροι κρυόεσσαν ὑπεῖρ ἄλα ναυτίλλοιντο.

τῶν μὲν ἔτ' οὐ προτέρω μυθήσομαι: ἀλλὰ καὶ αὐτὴ

920 νῆσος ὁμῶς κεχάροιο καὶ οἱ λάχον ὄργια κεῖνα

δαίμονες ἐνναέται, τὰ μὲν οὐ θέμις ἄμμιν ἀείδειν.

[910] He spake, and mounted the ship first of all; and so the rest of the chiefs followed, and, sitting in order, seized the oars; and Argus loosed for them the hawsers from under the sea-beaten rock. Whereupon they mightily smote the water with their long oars, and in the evening by the injunctions of Orpheus they touched at the island of Electra, daughter of Atlas, in order that by gentle initiation they might learn the rites that may not be uttered, and so with

greater safety sail over the chilling sea. Of these I will make no further mention; but I bid farewell to the island itself and the indwelling deities, to whom belong those mysteries, which it is not lawful for me to sing.

κεῖθεν δ' εἰρεσίῃ Μέλανος διὰ βένθεα πόντου
ἰέμενοι τῇ μὲν Θρηκῶν χθόνα, τῇ δὲ περαίην
Ἴμβρον ἔχον καθύπερθε: νέον γε μὲν ἡελίοιο
925 δυομένου Χερώνησον ἐπὶ προύχουσιν ἴκοντο.
ἔνθα σφιν λαιψηρὸς ἦν νότος, ἰστία δ' οὖρφ
στησάμενοι κούρης Ἀθαμαντίδος αἰτὰ ῥέεθρα
εἰσέβαλον: πέλαγος δὲ τὸ μὲν καθύπερθε λέλειπτο
ἦρι, τὸ δ' ἐννύχιοι Ῥοιτειάδος ἔνδοθεν ἀκτῆς
930 μέτρεον, Ἰδαίην ἐπὶ δεξιὰ γαῖαν ἔχοντες.
Δαρδανίην δὲ λιπόντες ἐπιποσέβαλλον Ἀβύδω,
Περκώτην δ' ἐπὶ τῇ καὶ Ἀβαρνίδος ἡμαθόεσσαν
ἠϊόνα ζαθέην τε παρήμειβον Πιτύειαν.
καὶ δὴ τοίγ' ἐπὶ νυκτὶ διάνδιχα νηὸς ἰούσης
935 δῖνῃ πορφύροντα διήνυσαν Ἑλλήσποντον.

[922] Thence did they row with eagerness over the depths of the black Sea, having on the one side the land of the Thracians, on the other Imbros on the south; and as the sun was just setting they reached the foreland of the Chersonesus. There a strong south wind blew for them; and raising the sails to the breeze they entered the swift stream of the maiden daughter of Athamas; and at dawn the sea to the north was left behind and at night they were coasting inside the Rhoeteian shore, with the land of Ida on their right. And leaving Dardania they directed their course to Abydos, and after it they sailed past Percote and the sandy beach of Abarnis and divine Pityeia. And in that night, as the ship sped on by sail and oar, they passed right through the Hellespont dark-gleaming with eddies.

ἔστι δέ τις αἰπεῖα Προποντίδος ἔνδοθι νῆσος
τυτθὸν ἀπὸ Φρυγίης πολυληίου ἡπείροιο
εἰς ἄλλα κεκλιμένη, ὅσσον τ' ἐπιμύρεται ἰσθμὸς
χέρσῳ ἐπιπρηγῆς καταειμένος: ἐν δέ οἱ ἀκταὶ
940 ἀμφίδυμοι, κεῖνται δ' ὑπὲρ ὕδατος Λισήποιο.
Λ' ῥκτων μιν καλέουσιν ὄρος περιναιετάοντες:
καὶ τὸ μὲν ὕβρισταί τε καὶ ἄγριοι ἐνναίουσιν
Γηγενέες, μέγα θαῦμα περικτιόνεσσιν ἰδέσθαι.
ἔξ γάρ ἐκάστῳ χεῖρες ὑπέρβιοι ἡρέθονται,
945 αἱ μὲν ἀπὸ στιβαρῶν ὤμων δύο, ταὶ δ' ὑπένερθεν
τέσσαρες αἰνοτάτησιν ἐπὶ πλευρῆς ἀραρυῖαι.
ἰσθμὸν δ' αὖ πεδῖον τε Δολιόνες ἀμφενέμοντο
ἄνδρες: ἐν δ' ἦρως Λινῆιος υἱὸς ἄνασσεν
Κύζικος, ὃν κούρη δίου τέκεν Εὐσώροιο

950 Αἰνίητι. τοὺς δ' οὔτι καὶ ἔκπαγλοί περ ἔόντες
 Γηγενέες σίνοντο, Ποσειδάωνος ἀρωγῇ·
 τοῦ γὰρ ἔσαν τὰ πρῶτα Δολίονες ἐκγεγαῶτες.
 ἔνθ' Ἀργῷ προύτυπεν ἐπειγομένη ἀνέμοισιν
 Θρηκίοις, Καλὸς δὲ λιμὴν ὑπέδεκτο θεούσαν.
 955 κεῖττε καὶ εὐναίης ὀλίγον λίθον ἐκλύσαντες
 Τίφυος ἐννεσίησιν ὑπὸ κρήνῃ ἐλίποντο,
 κρήνῃ ὑπ' Ἀρτακίῃ· ἕτερον δ' ἔλον, ὅστις ἀρήρει,
 βριθύν· ἀτὰρ κεῖνόν γε θεοπροπίας Ἐκάτοιο
 Νηλεΐδαι μετόπισθεν Ἴαονες ἰδρῦσαντο
 960 ἱερόν, ἣ θέμις ἦεν, Ἰησονίης ἐν Ἀθήνῃς.

[936] There is a lofty island inside the Propontis, a short distance from the Phrygian mainland with its rich cornfields, sloping to the sea, where an isthmus in front of the mainland is flooded by the waves, so low does it lie. And the isthmus has double shores, and they lie beyond the river Aesepus, and the inhabitants round about call the island the Mount of Bears. And insolent and fierce men dwell there, Earthborn, a great marvel to the neighbours to behold; for each one has six mighty hands to lift up, two from his sturdy shoulders, and four below, fitting close to his terrible sides. And about the isthmus and the plain the Doliones had their dwelling, and over them Cyzicus son of Aeneus was king, whom Aenete the daughter of goodly Eusorus bare. But these men the Earthborn monsters, fearful though they were, in nowise harried, owing to the protection of Poseidon; for from him had the Doliones first sprung. Thither Argo pressed on, driven by the winds of Thrace, and the Fair haven received her as she sped. There they cast away their small anchorstone by the advice of Tiphys and left it beneath a fountain, the fountain of Artaeie; and they took another meet for their purpose, a heavy one; but the first, according to the oracle of the Far-Darter, the Ionians, sons of Neleus, in after days laid to be a sacred stone, as was right, in the temple of Jasonian Athena.

τοὺς δ' ἄμυδις φιλότῃτι Δολίονες ἡδὲ καὶ αὐτὸς
 Κύζικος ἀντήσαντες ὅτε στόλον ἡδὲ γενέθλην
 ἔκλυον, οἵτινες εἶεν, ἐυξείνως ἀρέσαντο,
 καὶ σφεας εἰρεσίῃ ἐπιθον προτέρωσε κιόντας
 965 ἄστεος ἐν λιμένι πρυμνήσια νηὸς ἀνάψαι,
 ἔνθ' οἷγ' Ἐκβασίῳ βωμόν θέσαν Ἀπόλλωνι
 εἰσάμενοι παρὰ θῖνα, θυηπολῆς τ' ἐμελοντο.
 δῶκεν δ' αὐτὸς ἄναξ λαρὸν μέθυ δευοῦνοισιν
 μῆλ' ἂν ὁμοῦ· δὴ γάρ οἱ ἔην φάτις, εὖτ' ἂν ἴκωνται
 970 ἀνδρῶν ἡρώων θεῖος στόλος, αὐτίκα τόνγε
 μεῖλιχον ἀντιάαν, μηδὲ πτολέμοιο μέλεσθαι.
 ἴσόν που κάκείνῳ ἐπισταχύεσκον ἱοῦλοι,
 οὐδέ νύ πω παίδεσσιν ἀγαλλόμενος μεμόρητο·

ἄλλ' ἔτι οἱ κατὰ δώματ' ἀκήρατος ἦεν ἄκοιτις
 975 ὠδίνων, Μέροπος Περκωσίου ἐκγεγαυῖα,
 Κλειτή ἐυπλόκαμος, τὴν μὲν νέον ἐξέτι πατρὸς
 θεσπεσίοις ἔδνοισιν ἀνήγαγεν ἀντιπέρηθεν.
 ἀλλὰ καὶ ὥς θάλαμόν τε λιπὼν καὶ δέμνια νύμφης
 τοῖς μέτα δαῖτ' ἀλέγυνε, βάλεν δ' ἀπὸ δείματα θυμοῦ.
 980 ἀλλήλους δ' ἐρέεινον ἀμοιβαδῖς· ἦτοι ὁ μὲν σφεων
 πεύθετο ναυτιλῆς ἄνυσιν, Πελίαό τ' ἐφετμάς·
 οἱ δὲ περικτιόνων πόλιας καὶ κόλπον ἅπαντα
 εὐρείης πεύθοντο Προποντίδος· οὐ μὲν ἐπιπρὸ
 ἡίδει καταλέξαι ἐλδομένοισι δαῖναι.
 985 ἦοι δ' εἰσανέβαν μέγα Δίνδυμον, ὄφρα καὶ αὐτοὶ
 θηήσαιντο πόρους κείνης ἀλός· ἐκ δ' ἄρα τοίγε
 νῆα Χυτοῦ λιμένος προτέρω ἐξήλασαν ὄρμον·
 ἦδε δ' Ἰησονίη πέφαται ὁδός, ἦν περ ἔβησαν.

[961] Now the Doliones and Cyzicus himself all came together to meet them with friendliness, and when they knew of the quest and their lineage welcomed them with hospitality, and persuaded them to row further and to fasten their ship's hawsers at the city harbour. Here they built an altar to Ecbasian Apollo and set it up on the beach, and gave heed to sacrifices. And the king of his own bounty gave them sweet wine and sheep in their need; for he had heard a report that whenever a godlike band of heroes should come, straightway he should meet it with gentle words and should have no thought of war. As with Jason, the soft down was just blooming on his chin, nor yet had it been his lot to rejoice in children, but still in his palace his wife was untouched by the pangs of child-birth, the daughter of Percosian Merops, fair-haired Cleite, whom lately by priceless gifts he had brought from her father's home from the mainland opposite. But even so he left his chamber and bridal bed and prepared a banquet among the strangers, casting all fears from his heart. And they questioned one another in turn. Of them would he learn the end of their voyage and the injunctions of Pelias; while they enquired about the cities of the people round and all the gulf of the wide Propontis; but further he could not tell them for all their desire to learn. In the morning they climbed mighty Dindymum that they might themselves behold the various paths of that sea; and they brought their ship from its former anchorage to the harbour, Chytus; and the path they trod is named the path of Jason.

Γηγενέες δ' ἐτέρωθεν ἀπ' οὐρεος αἶξαντες
 990 φράξαν ἀπειρεσίοιο Χυτοῦ στόμα νειόθι πέτρης
 πόντιον, οἷά τε θῆρα λοχώμενοι ἔνδον ἐόντα.
 ἀλλὰ γὰρ αὖθι λéléιπτο σὺν ἀνδράσιν ὀπλοτέροισιν
 Ἡρακλῆς, ὃς δὴ σφι παλίντονον αἶψα τανύσσας
 τόξον ἐπασσυντέρους πέλασε χθονί· τοῖ δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ
 995 πέτρας ἀμφιρρῶγας ἀερτάζοντες ἔβαλλον.

δὴ γάρ που κἀκεῖνα θεὰ τρέφεν αἰνὰ πέλωρα
Ἥρη, Ζηνὸς ἄκοιτις, ἀέθλιον Ἡρακλῆι.
σὺν δὲ καὶ ὄλλοι δῆθεν ὑπότροποι ἀντιόωντες,
πρὶν περ ἀνελθέμεναι σκοπιήν, ἥπτοντο φόνοιο
1000 γηγενέων ἥρωες ἀρήιοι, ἡμὲν ὀιστοῖς
ἠδὲ καὶ ἐγχείησι δεδεγμένοι, εἰσόκε πάντας
ἀντιβίην ἀσπερχὲς ὀρινομένουσ' ἐδάϊξαν.
ὥς δ' ὅτε δούρατα μακρὰ νέον πελέκεσσι τυπέντα
ύλοτόμοι στοιχηδὸν ἐπὶ ῥηγμῖνι βάλωσιν,
1005 ὄφρα νοτισθέντα κρατεροὺς ἀνεχοῖατο γόμφους:
ὥς οἱ ἐνὶ ξυνοχῇ λιμένος πολιοῖο τέταντο
ἐξείης, ἄλλοι μὲν ἐς ἀλμυρὸν ἀθρόοι ὕδωρ
δύπτοντες κεφαλὰς καὶ στήθεα, γυῖα δ' ὕπερθεν
χέρσῳ τεινάμενοι· τοὶ δ' ἔμπαλιν, αἰγιαλοῖο
1010 κράατα μὲν ψαμάθοισι, πόδας δ' εἰς βένθος ἔρειδον,
ἄμφω ἅμ' οἰωνοῖσι καὶ ἰχθύσι κύρμα γενέσθαι.

[989] But the Earthborn men on the other side rushed down from the mountain and with crags below blocked up the mouth of vast Chytus towards the sea, like men lying in wait for a wild beast within. But there Heracles had been left behind with the younger heroes and he quickly bent his back-springing bow against the monsters and brought them to earth one after another; and they in their turn raised huge ragged rocks and hurled them. For these dread monsters too, I ween, the goddess Hera, bride of Zeus, had nurtured to be a trial for Heracles. And therewithal came the rest of the martial heroes returning to meet the foe before they reached the height of outlook, and they fell to the slaughter of the Earthborn, receiving them with arrows and spears until they slew them all as they rushed fiercely to battle. And as when woodcutters cast in rows upon the beach long trees just hewn down by their axes, in order that, once sodden with brine, they may receive the strong bolts; so these monsters at the entrance of the foam-fringed harbour lay stretched one after another, some in heaps bending their heads and breasts into the salt waves with their limbs spread out above on the land; others again were resting their heads on the sand of the shore and their feet in the deep water, both alike a prey to birds and fishes at once.

ἥρωες δ', ὅτε δὴ σφιν ἀταρβῆς ἔπλετ' ἄεθλος,
δὴ τότε πείσματα νηὸς ἐπὶ πνοιῆς ἀνέμοιο
λυσάμενοι προτέρωσε διεξ ἁλὸς οἶδμα νέοντο.
1015 ἡ δ' ἔθεεν λαίφεσσι πανήμερος· οὐ μὲν ἰούσης
νυκτὸς ἔτι ῥιπὴ μένεν ἔμπεδον, ἀλλὰ θύελλαι
ἀντία ἀρπάγδην ὀπίσω φέρον, ὄφρ' ἐπέλασσαν
αὐτὶς ἐνξείνοισι Δολίοσιν ἐκ δ' ἄρ' ἔβησαν
αὐτονυχί· ἱερὴ δὲ φατίζεται ἡδ' ἔτι πέτρῃ,
1020 ἣ πέρι πείσματα νηὸς ἐπεσσύμενοι ἐβάλλοντο.

οὐδέ τις αὐτὴν νῆσον ἐπιφραδέως ἐνόησεν
ἔμμεναι· οὐδ' ὑπὸ νυκτὶ Δολιόνες ἄν' ἀνιόντας
ἥρωας νημερτὲς ἐπῆισαν· ἀλλὰ που ἀνδρῶν
Μακρίων εἴσαντο Πελασγικὸν ἄρεα κέλσαι.
1025 τῷ καὶ τεύχεα δύντες ἐπὶ σφίσι χεῖρας ἄειραν.
σὺν δ' ἔλασαν μελίας τε καὶ ἀσπίδας ἀλλήλοισιν
ὀξεῖη ἵκελοι ριπῇ πυρός, ἥ τ' ἐνὶ θάμνοισι
αὐαλέοισι πεσοῦσα κορύσσεται· ἐν δὲ κυδοιμὸς
δεινὸς τε ζαμενὴς τε Δολιονίῳ πέσε δῆμῳ.
1030 οὐδ' ὄγε δηιοτῆτος ὑπὲρ μόρον αὐτὶς ἔμελλεν
οἴκαδε νυμφιδίους θαλάμους καὶ λέκτρον ἰκέσθαι.
ἀλλὰ μιν Λίσονίδης τετραμμένον ἰθὺς ἐοῖο
πληξεν ἐπαῖζας στῆθος μέσον, ἀμφὶ δὲ δουρὶ
ὅστέον ἐρραίσθη· ὁ δ' ἐνὶ ψαμάθοισιν ἔλυσθεις
1035 μοῖραν ἀνέπλησεν. τὴν γὰρ θέμις οὐποτ' ἀλύξαι
θνητοῖσιν· πάντῃ δὲ περὶ μέγα πέπταται ἔρκος.
ὥς τὸν οἰόμενόν που ἀδευκέος ἔκτοθεν ἄτης
εἶναι ἀριστήων αὐτῇ ὑπὸ νυκτὶ πέδησεν
μαρνάμενον κείνοισι· πολεῖς δ' ἐπαρηγόνες ἄλλοι
1040 ἔκταθεν· Ἡρακλῆς μὲν ἐνήρατο Τηλεκλῆα
ἠδὲ Μεγαβρόντην· Σφόδριν δ' ἐνάριζεν Ἄκαστος·
Πηλεὺς δὲ Ζέλυν εἶλεν ἀρηίθοόν τε Γέφυρον.
αὐτὰρ ἐνυμμελὶς Τελαμὼν Βασιλῆα κατέκτα.
Ἴδας δ' αὖ Προμέα, Κλυτίος δ' Ὑάκινθον ἔπεφνεν,
1045 Τυνδαρίδαι δ' ἄμφω Μεγαλοσσάκεα Φλογίον τε.
Οἰνείδης δ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ἔλεν θρασὺν Ἴτυμονῆα
ἠδὲ καὶ Ἀρτακέα, πρόμον ἀνδρῶν· οὗς ἔτι πάντας
ἐνναεταί τιμαῖς ἡρώϊσι κυδαίνουσιν.
οἱ δ' ἄλλοι εἷζαντες ὑπέτρεσαν, ἥνυτε κίρκους
1050 ὠκυπέτας ἀγεληδὸν ὑποτρέσσωσι πέλειαί.
ἔς δὲ πύλας ὁμάδῳ πέσον ἄθροοι· αἶψα δ' αὐτῆς
πλητὸ πόλις στονόεντος ὑποτροπὴ πολέμοιο.
ἠῶθεν δ' ὀλοήν καὶ ἀμήχανον εἰσενόησαν
ἀμπλακίην ἄμφω· στυγερὸν δ' ἄχος εἶλεν ἰδόντας
1055 ἥρωας Μινύας Αἰνίηιον υἷα πάροιθεν
Κύζικον ἐν κονίησι καὶ αἵματι πεπτηῶτα.
ἤματα δὲ τρία πάντα γόων, τίλλοντό τε χαίτας
αὐτοὶ ὁμῶς λαοὶ τε Δολιόνες. αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα
τρὶς περὶ χαλκείοις σὺν τεύχεσι δινηθέντες
1060 τύμβῳ ἐνεκτερέιζαν, ἐπειρήσαντό τ' ἀέθλων,
ἥ θέμις, ἅμ πεδίον λειμώνιον, ἔνθ' ἔτι νῦν περ
ἀγκέχυται τόδε σῆμα καὶ ὀψιγόνοισιν ἰδέσθαι.
οὐδὲ μὲν οὐδ' ἄλοχος Κλείτη φθιμένοιο λέλαιπτο
οὗ πόσιος μετόπισθε· κακῶ δ' ἐπὶ κύντερον ἄλλο

1065 ἦνυσεν, ἀναμένη βρόχον αὐχένι. τὴν δὲ καὶ αὐταὶ
νύμφαι ἀποφθιμένην ἀλσιήδες ὠδύραντο·
καὶ οἱ ἀπὸ βλεφάρων ὅσα δάκρυα χεῦαν ἔραζε,
πάντα τάγε κρήνην τεῦξαν θεαί, ἦν καλέουσιν
Κλείτην, δυστήνοιο περικλεῆς οὔνομα νύμφης.
1070 αἰνότατον δὴ κεῖνο Δολιονίησι γυναιξὶν
ἀνδράσι τ' ἐκ Διὸς ἦμαρ ἐπὶ ἦλθεν· οὐδὲ γὰρ αὐτῶν
ἔτλη τις πάσασθαι ἐδητύος, οὐδ' ἐπὶ δηρὸν
ἐξ ἀχέων ἔργοιο μυληφάτου ἐμῶντο·
ἀλλ' αὐτῶς ἄφλεκτα διαζώεσκον ἔδοντες.
1075 ἔνθ' ἔτι νῦν, εὖτ' ἄν σφιν ἐτήσια χύτλα χέωνται
Κύζικον ἐνναίοντες Ἰάονες, ἔμπεδον αἰεὶ
πανδήμοιο μύλης πελάνους ἐπαλετρεύουσιν.
ἐκ δὲ τόθεν τρηχεῖται ἀνηέρθησαν ἄελλαι

[1012] But the heroes, when the contest was ended without fear, loosed the ship's hawsers to the breath of the wind and pressed on through the sea-swell. And the ship sped on under sail all day; but when night came the rushing wind did not hold steadfast, but contrary blasts caught them and held them back till they again approached the hospitable Doliones. And they stepped ashore that same night; and the rock is still called the Sacred Rock round which they threw the ship's hawsers in their haste. Nor did anyone note with care that it was the same island; nor in the night did the Doliones clearly perceive that the heroes were returning; but they deemed that Pelasgian war-men of the Macrians had landed. Therefore they donned their armour and raised their hands against them. And with clashing of ashen spears and shields they fell on each other, like the swift rush of fire which falls on dry brushwood and rears its crest; and the din of battle, terrible and furious, fell upon the people of the Doliones. Nor was the king to escape his fate and return home from battle to his bridal chamber and bed. But Aeson's son leapt upon him as he turned to face him, and smote him in the middle of the breast, and the bone was shattered round the spear; he rolled forward in the sand and filled up the measure of his fate. For that no mortal may escape; but on every side a wide snare encompasses us. And so, when he thought that he had escaped bitter death from the chiefs, fate entangled him that very night in her toils while battling with them; and many champions withal were slain; Heracles killed Telecles and Megabrontes, and Acastus slew Sphodris; and Peleus slew Zelus and Gephyrus swift in war. Telamon of the strong spear slew Basileus. And Idas slew Promeus, and Clytius Hyacinthus, and the two sons of Tyndareus slew Megalossaces and Phlogius. And after them the son of Oeneus slew bold Itomeneus, and Artaceus, leader of men; all of whom the inhabitants still honour with the worship due to heroes. And the rest gave way and fled in terror just as doves fly in terror before swift-winged hawks. And with a din they rustled in a body to the gates; and quickly the city was filled with loud cries at the turning of the dolorous fight. But at dawn both sides perceived the

fatal and cureless error; and bitter grief seized the Minyan heroes when they saw before them Cyzicus son of Aeneus fallen in the midst of dust and blood. And for three whole days they lamented and rent their hair, they and the Dollones. Then three times round his tomb they paced in armour of bronze and performed funeral rites and celebrated games, as was meet, upon the meadow-plain, where even now rises the mound of his grave to be seen by men of a later day. No, nor was his bride Cleite left behind her dead husband, but to crown the ill she wrought an ill yet more awful, when she clasped a noose round her neck. Her death even the nymphs of the grove bewailed; and of all the tears for her that they shed to earth from their eyes the goddesses made a fountain, which they call Cleite, the illustrious name of the hapless maid. Most terrible came that day from Zeus upon the Doliones, women and men; for no one of them dared even to taste food, nor for a long time by reason of grief did they take thought for the toil of the cornmill, but they dragged on their lives eating their food as it was, untouched by fire. Here even now, when the Ionians that dwell in Cyzicus pour their yearly libations for the dead, they ever grind the meal for the sacrificial cakes at the common mill.

ἥμαθ' ὁμοῦ νύκτας τε δωδέκα, τοὺς δὲ καταῦθι
1080 ναυτίλλεσθαι ἔρυκον. ἐπιπλομένη δ' ἐνὶ νυκτὶ
ἄλλοι μὲν ῥα πάρος δεδμημένοι εὐνάζοντο
ὔπνω ἀριστῆες πύματον λάχος· αὐτὰρ Ἄκαστος
Μόψος τ' Ἀμπυκίδης ἀδινὰ κνώσσοντας ἔρυντο.
ἢ δ' ἄρ' ὑπὲρ ξανθοῖο καρήατος Αἰσονίδαο
1085 πωτᾶτ' ἀλκυνόνις λιγυρῇ ὀπὶ θεσπίζουσα
λῆξιν ὀρινομένων ἀνέμων· συνέηκε δὲ Μόψος
ἀκταίης ὄρνιθος ἐναΐσιμον ὅσσαν ἀκούσας.
καὶ τὴν μὲν θεὸς αὖτις ἀπέτραπεν, ἴζε δ' ὕπερθεν
νηίου ἀφλάστοιο μετήορος αἶζασα.
1090 τὸν δ' ὄγε κεκλιμένον μαλακοῖς ἐνὶ κώεσιν οἴων.
κινήσας ἀνέγειρε παρασχεδόν, ὧδέ τ' ἔειπεν·
'Αἰσονίδη, χρειώ σε τόδ' ἱερὸν εἰσανιόντα
Δινδύμου ὀκρίεντος ἐύθρονον ἰλάξασθαι
μητέρα συμπάντων μακάρων· λήξουσι δ' ἅλλαι
1095 ζαχρηεῖς· τοίην γὰρ ἐγὼ νέον ὅσσαν ἄκουσα
ἀλκυνόνος ἀλήης, ἣ τε κνώσσοντος ὕπερθεν
σεῖο πέριξ τὰ ἕκαστα πιφανσκομένη πεπότηται.
ἐκ γὰρ τῆς ἄνεμοί τε θάλασσά τε νειόθι τε χθὼν
πᾶσα πεπείρανται νιφόεν θ' ἔδος Οὐλύμποιο·
1100 καὶ οἱ, ὅτ' ἐξ ὀρέων μέγαν οὐρανὸν εἰσαναβαίνειν,
Ζεὺς αὐτὸς Κρονίδης ὑποχάζεται. ὧς δὲ καὶ ἄλλοι
ἀθάνατοι μάκαρες δεινὴν θεὸν ἀμφιέπουσιν.'

[1079] After this, fierce tempests arose for twelve days and nights together and kept them there from sailing. But in the next night the rest of the chieftains,

overcome by sleep, were resting during the latest period of the night, while Acastus and Mopsus the son of Ampyeus kept guard over their deep slumbers. And above the golden head of Aeson's son there hovered a halcyon prophesying with shrill voice the ceasing of the stormy winds; and Mopsus heard and understood the cry of the bird of the shore, fraught with good omen. And some god made it turn aside, and flying aloft it settled upon the stern-ornament of the ship. And the seer touched Jason as he lay wrapped in soft sheepskins and woke him at once, and thus spake: "Son of Aeson, thou must climb to this temple on rugged Dindymum and propitiate the mother of all the blessed gods on her fair throne, and the stormy blasts shall cease. For such was the voice I heard but now from the halcyon, bird of the sea, which, as it flew above thee in thy slumber, told me all. For by her power the winds and the sea and all the earth below and the snowy seat of Olympus are complete; and to her, when from the mountains she ascends the mighty heaven, Zeus himself, the son of Cronos, gives place. In like manner the rest of the immortal blessed ones reverence the dread goddess."

ὥς φάτο: τῷ δ' ἀσπαστὸν ἔπος γένετ' εἰσαΐοντι.
ῶρνυτο δ' ἐξ εὐνῆς κεχαρημένος: ὦρσε δ' ἐταίρους
1105 πάντας ἐπισπέρχων, καὶ τέ σφισιν ἐγρομένοισιν
Ἀμπυκίδεω Μόψοιο θεοπροπίας ἀγόρευεν.
αἶψα δὲ κουρότεροι μὲν ἀπὸ σταθμῶν ἐλάσαντες
ἔνθεν ἐς αἰπεινὴν ἄναγον βόας οὔρεος ἄκρην.
οἱ δ' ἄρα λυσάμενοι Ἰερῆς ἐκ πείσματα πέτρης
1110 ἦρσαν ἐς λιμένα Θρηάκιον: ἄν δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ
βαῖνον, παυροτέρους ἐτάρων ἐν νηὶ λιπόντες.
τοῖσι δὲ Μακριάδες σκοπιαὶ καὶ πᾶσα περαιὰ
Θρηακίης ἐνὶ χερσὶν ἑαῖς προφαίνεται' ἰδέσθαι:
φαίνεται δ' ἡρόεν στόμα Βοσπόρου ἠδὲ κολῶναι
1115 Μυσία: ἐκ δ' ἐτέρης ποταμοῦ ῥόος Αἰσῆποιο
ἄστρ' τε καὶ πεδῖον Νηπῆιον Ἀδρηστείης.
ἔσκε δέ τι στιβαρὸν στύπος ἀμπέλου ἔντροφον ὕλη,
πρόχλυν γεράνδρυν: τὸ μὲν ἔκταμον, ὄφρα πέλοιτο
δαίμονος οὔρεϊς ἱερὸν βρέτας: ἔξεσε δ' Ἄργος
1120 εὐκόσμως, καὶ δὴ μιν ἐπ' ὀκρίοντι κολωνῶ
ἵδρυσαν φηγοῖσιν ἐπηρεφὲς ἀκροτάτησιν,
αἱ ῥά τε πασάων πανυπέρταται ἐρρίζονται.
βωμόν δ' αὖ χέραδος παρενήνεον: ἀμφὶ δὲ φύλλοις
στεψάμενοι δρυῖνοισι θυηπολὶς ἐμέλοντο
1125 μητέρα Δινδυμὴν πολυπότνιαν ἀγκαλέοντες,
ἐνναέτιν Φρυγίης, Τιτίν θ' ἅμα Κύλληνόν τε,
οἱ μούνοι πολέων μοιρηγέται ἠδὲ πάρεδροι
μητέρος Ἰδαίης κεκλήγεται, ὅσσοι ἕασιν
δάκτυλοι Ἰδαῖοι Κρηταιέες, οὓς ποτε νύμφη
1130 Ἀγχιάλη Δικταῖον ἀνὰ σπέος ἀμφοτέρησιν

δραξαμένη γαίης Οίαξίδος ἐβλάστησεν.
 πολλὰ δὲ τήνγε λιτῇσιν ἀποστρέψαι ἐριώλας
 Λίσονίδης γουνάζετ' ἐπιλλείβων ἱεροῖσιν
 αἰθομένοις: ἄμυδις δὲ νέοι Ὀρφήος ἀνωγῇ
 1135 σκαίροντες βηταρμόν ἐνόπλιον ὠρχήσαντο,
 καὶ σάκεα ξιφέεσσιν ἐπέκτυπον, ὥς κεν ἰωὴ
 δύσφημος πλάζοιτο δι' ἡέρος, ἦν ἔτι λαοὶ
 κηδεῖη βασιλῆος ἀνέστενον. ἔνθεν ἐσαιεὶ
 ῥόμβῳ καὶ τυπάνῳ Ῥεῖην Φρύγες ἰλάσκονται.
 1140 ἡ δὲ που εὐαγέεσσιν ἐπὶ φρένα θῆκε θυηλαῖς
 ἀνταῖη δαίμων: τὰ δ' ἑοικότα σήματ' ἔγεντο.
 δένδρεα μὲν καρπὸν χέον ἄσπετον, ἀμφὶ δὲ ποσσὶν
 αὐτομάτη φύε γαῖα τερείνης ἄνθεα ποίης.
 θῆρες δ' εἰλυοὺς τε κατὰ ξυλόχους τε λιπόντες
 1145 οὐρῇσιν σαίνοντες ἐπήλυθον. ἡ δὲ καὶ ἄλλο
 θῆκε τέρας: ἐπεὶ οὔτι παροίτερον ὕδατι νᾶεν
 Δίνδυμον: ἀλλὰ σφιν τότε' ἀνέβραχε διψάδος αὐτῶς
 ἐκ κορυφῆς ἄλληκτον: Ἴησονίην δ' ἐνέπουσιν
 κεῖνο ποτὸν κρήνην περιναίεται ἄνδρες ὀπίσσω.
 1150 καὶ τότε μὲν δαῖτ' ἀμφὶ θεᾶς θέσαν οὔρεσιν Ἄρκτων,
 μέλποντες Ῥεῖην πολυπότνιαν: αὐτὰρ ἐς ἣν
 ληξάντων ἀνέμων νῆσον λίπον εἰρεσίησιν.

[1103] Thus he spake, and his words were welcome to Jason's ear. And he arose from his bed with joy and woke all his comrades hurriedly and told them the prophecy of Mopsus the son of Ampycus. And quickly the younger men drove oxen from their stalls and began to lead them to the mountain's lofty summit. And they loosed the hawsers from the sacred rock and rowed to the Thracian harbour; and the heroes climbed the mountain, leaving a few of their comrades in the ship. And to them the Macrian heights and all the coast of Thrace opposite appeared to view close at hand. And there appeared the misty mouth of Bosporus and the Mysian hills; and on the other side the stream of the river Aesepus and the city and Nepeian plain of Adrasteia. Now there was a sturdy stump of vine that grew in the forest, a tree exceeding old; this they cut down, to be the sacred image of the mountain goddess; and Argus smoothed it skilfully, and they set it upon that rugged hill beneath a canopy of lofty oaks, which of all trees have their roots deepest. And near it they heaped an altar of small stones, and wreathed their brows with oak leaves and paid heed to sacrifice, invoking the mother of Dindymum, most venerable, dweller in Phrygia, and Titias and Cyllenus, who alone of many are called dispensers of doom and assessors of the Idaean mother, — the Idaean Dactyls of Crete, whom once the nymph Anchiale, as she grasped with both hands the land of Oaxus, bare in the Dictaeon cave. And with many prayers did Aeson's son beseech the goddess to turn aside the stormy blasts as he poured libations on the blazing sacrifice; and at the same time by command of Orpheus the youths

trod a measure dancing in full armour, and clashed with their swords on their shields, so that the ill-omened cry might be lost in the air the wail which the people were still sending up in grief for their king. Hence from that time forward the Phrygians propitiate Rhea with the wheel and the drum. And the gracious goddess, I ween, inclined her heart to pious sacrifices; and favourable signs appeared. The trees shed abundant fruit, and round their feet the earth of its own accord put forth flowers from the tender grass. And the beasts of the wild wood left their lairs and thickets and came up fawning on them with their tails. And she caused yet another marvel; for hitherto there was no flow of water on Dindymum, but then for them an unceasing stream gushed forth from the thirsty peak just as it was, and the dwellers around in after times called that stream, the spring of Jason. And then they made a feast in honour of the goddess on the Mount of Bears, singing the praises of Rhea most venerable; but at dawn the winds had ceased and they rowed away from the island.

ἐνθ' ἔρις ἄνδρα ἕκαστον ἀριστήων ὀρόθουνεν,
ὅστις ἀπολλήξειε πανύστατος. ἀμφὶ γὰρ αἰθὴρ
1155 νήνεμος ἐστόρεσεν δῖνας, κατὰ δ' εὐνάσε πόντον.
οἱ δὲ γαλιναῖη πίσυνοι ἐλάσκον ἐπιπρὸ
νῆα βίη; δ' οὐ κε διῆξ ἄλὸς αἰσσοῦσαν
οὐδὲ Ποσειδάωνος ἀελλόποδες κίχον ἵπποι.
ἔμπης δ' ἐγρομένοιο σάλου ζαχρηεσιν αὔραις,
1160 αἱ νέον ἐκ ποταμῶν ὑπὸ δείελον ἠερέθονται,
τειρόμενοι καὶ δὴ μετελώφεον· αὐτὰρ ὁ τοῦσγε
πασσυδίῃ μογέοντας ἐφέλκετο κάρτεϊ χειρῶν
Ἡρακλῆς, ἐτίνασσε δ' ἀρηότα δούρατα νηός.
ἀλλ' ὅτε δὴ Μυσῶν λεληημένοι ἠπείροιο
1165 Ῥυνδακίδας προχοὰς μέγα τ' ἠρίον Λιγαίωτος
τυτθὸν ὑπέκ Φρυγίης παρεμέτρεον εἰσορόωντες,
δὴ τότε ἄνοχλίζων τετρηχότος οἴδατος ὄλκοις
μεσσοθέν ἄξεν ἐρετμόν. ἀτὰρ τρύφος ἄλλο μὲν αὐτὸς
ἄμφω χερσὶν ἔχων πέσε δόχμιος, ἄλλο δὲ πόντος
1170 κλύζε παλιρροίοισι φέρων. ἀνὰ δ' ἔζετο σιγῇ
παπταίνων· χεῖρες γὰρ ἀήθεον ἠρεμέουσαι.

[1153] Thereupon a spirit of contention stirred each chieftain, who should be the last to leave his oar. For all around the windless air smoothed the swirling waves and lulled the sea to rest. And they, trusting in the calm, mightily drove the ship forward; and as she sped through the salt sea, not even the storm-footed steeds of Poseidon would have overtaken her. Nevertheless when the sea was stirred by violent blasts which were just rising from the rivers about evening, forspent with toil, they ceased. But Heracles by the might of his arms pulled the weary rowers along all together, and made the strong-knit timbers of the ship to quiver. But when, eager to reach the Mysian mainland, they

passed along in sight of the mouth of Rhyndaeus and the great cairn of Aegaeon, a little way from Phrygia, then Heracles, as he ploughed up the furrows of the roughened surge, broke his oar in the middle. And one half he held in both his hands as he fell sideways, the other the sea swept away with its receding wave. And he sat up in silence glaring round; for his hands were unaccustomed to be idle.

ἥμος δ' ἀγρόθεν εἴσι φυτοσκάφος ἢ τις ἀροτρεὺς
ἀσπασίως εἰς αὐλιν ἔην, δόρποιο χατίζων,
αὐτοῦ δ' ἐν προμολῇ τετρυμένα γούνατ' ἔκαμψεν
1175 αὐσταλέος κονίησι, περιτριβέας δέ τε χεῖρας
εἰσορόων κακὰ πολλὰ ἐῖ ἡρήσατο γαστρί:
τῆμος ἄρ' οἷγ' ἀφίκοντο Κιανίδος ἡθεα γαίης
ἀμφ' Ἀργανθώνειον ὄρος προχοάς τε Κίοιο.
τοὺς μὲν ἐυξείνως Μυσοὶ φιλότῃτι κiónτας
1180 δειδέχατ', ἐνναέται κείνης χθονός, ἡιά τέ σφιν
μῆλά τε δευομένοις μέθυ τ' ἄσπετον ἐγγυάλιζαν.
ἐνθα δ' ἔπειθ' οἱ μὲν ξύλα κάγκανα, τοὶ δὲ λεχαίην
φυλλάδα λειμώνων φέρον ἄσπετον ἀμήσαντες,
στόρνυσθαι: τοὶ δ' ἀμφὶ πυρήια δινεύεσκον:
1185 οἱ δ' οἶνον κρητῆρσι κέρων, πονέοντο τε δαῖτα,
Ἐκβασίῳ ῥέξαντες ὑπὸ κνέφας Ἀπόλλωνι.

[1172] Now at the hour when from the field some delver or ploughman goes gladly home to his hut, longing for his evening meal, and there on the threshold, all squalid with dust, bows his wearied knees, and, beholding his hands worn with toil, with many a curse reviles his belly; at that hour the heroes reached the homes of the Cianian land near the Arganthonian mount and the outfall of Cius. Them as they came in friendliness, the Mysians, inhabitants of that land, hospitably welcomed, and gave them in their need provisions and sheep and abundant wine. Hereupon some brought dried wood, others from the meadows leaves for beds which they gathered in abundance for strewing, whilst others were twirling sticks to get fire; others again were mixing wine in the bowl and making ready the feast, after sacrificing at nightfall to Apollo Ecbasius.

αὐτὰρ ὁ δαίνυσθαι ἐτάροις οἷς εὖ ἐπιτείλας
βῆ ῥ' ἔμεν εἰς ὕλην υἱὸς Διός, ὥς κεν ἐρετμὸν
οἷ αὐτῷ φθαίῃ καταχείριον ἐντύνασθαι.
1190 εὗρεν ἔπειτ' ἐλάτην ἀλαλήμενος, οὔτε τι πολλοῖς
ἄχθομένην ὄζοις, οὐδὲ μέγα τηλεθόωσαν,
ἀλλ' οἶον ταναΐς ἔρνος πέλει αἰγείριοι:
τόσση ὁμῶς μῆκός τε καὶ ἐς πάχος ἦεν ιδέσθαι.
ρίμφα δ' οἰστοδόκην μὲν ἐπὶ χθονὶ θῆκε φαρέτρην
1195 αὐτοῖσιν τόξοισιν, ἔδω δ' ἀπὸ δέρμα λένοντος.

τὴν δ' ὄγε χαλκοβαρεῖ ῥοπάλῳ δαπέδοιο τινάξας
νειόθεν ἀμφοτέρῃσι περὶ στύπος ἔλλαβε χερσίν,
ἠγορέῃ πίσυνος· ἐν δὲ πλατὺν ὤμον ἔρεισεν
εὖ διαβάς· πεδόθεν δὲ βαθύρριζόν περ ἐοῦσαν
1200 προσφὺς ἐξήειρε σὺν αὐτοῖς ἔχμασι γαίης.
ὥς δ' ὅταν ἀπροφάτως ἰστόν νεός, εὖτε μάλιστα
χειμερὶ ὀλοοῖτο δύσιν πέλει Ὠρίωνος,
ὑψόθεν ἐμπλήξασα θοῇ ἀνέμοιο κατὰίξ
αὐτοῖσι σφίγνεσσιν ὑπὲκ προτόνων ἐρύσῃται·
1205 ὥς ὄγε τὴν ἤειρεν. ὁμοῦ δ' ἀνὰ τόξα καὶ ἰοὺς
δέρμα θ' ἔλῶν ῥοπαλόν τε παλίσσυτος ὥρτο νέεσθαι.

[1187] But the son of Zeus having duly enjoined on his comrades to prepare the feast took his way into a wood, that he might first fashion for himself an oar to fit his hand. Wandering about he found a pine not burdened with many branches, nor too full of leaves, but like to the shaft of a tall poplar; so great was it both in length and thickness to look at. And quickly he laid on the ground his arrow-holding quiver together with his bow, and took off his lion's skin. And he loosened the pine from the ground with his bronze-tipped club and grasped the trunk with both hands at the bottom, relying on his strength; and he pressed it against his broad shoulder with legs wide apart; and clinging close he raised it from the ground deep-rooted though it was, together with clods of earth. And as when unexpectedly, just at the time of the stormy setting of baleful Orion, a swift gust of wind strikes down from above, and wrenches a ship's mast from its stays, wedges and all; so did Heracles lift the pine. And at the same time he took up his bow and arrows, his lion skin and club, and started on his return.

τόφρα δ' Ὑλας χαλκὴ σὺν κάλπιδι νόσφιν ὁμίλῳ
δίξῃτο κρήνης ἱερὸν ῥόον, ὥς κέ οἱ ὕδωρ
φθαίῃ ἀφυσσάμενος ποτιδόρπιον, ἄλλα τε πάντα
1210 ὀτραλέως κατὰ κόσμον ἐπαρτίσσειεν ἰόντι.
δὴ γάρ μιν τοίοισιν ἐν ἦθεσιν αὐτὸς ἔφερβεν,
νηπίαχον τὰ πρῶτα δόμων ἐκ πατρὸς ἀπούρας,
δίου Θειοδάμαντος, ὃν ἐν Δρυόπεσσιν ἔπεφνεν
νηλειῶς, βοὸς ἀμφὶ γεωμόρου ἀντιόωντα.
1215 ἦτοι ὁ μὲν νειοῖο γύας τέμνεσκεν ἀρότρῳ
Θειοδάμας ἀνὴρ βεβολημένος· αὐτὰρ ὁ τόνγε
βοῦν ἀρότην ἦνωγε παρασχέμεν οὐκ ἐθέλοντα.
ἔτο γὰρ πρόφασιν πολέμου Δρυόπεσσι βαλέσθαι
λευγαλέην, ἐπεὶ οὔτι δίκης ἀλέγοντες ἔναιον.
1220 ἀλλὰ τὰ μὲν τηλοῦ κεν ἀποπλάγξειεν αἰοιδῆς.
αἶψα δ' ὄγε κρήνην μετεκίαθεν, ἣν καλέουσιν
πηγάς ἀγχίγυοι περιναίεται. οἱ δέ που ἄρτι
νυμφάων ἴσαντο χοροί· μέλε γάρ σφισι πάσαις,

ὄσσαι κείσ' ἔρατὸν νύμφαι ρίον ἀμφενέμοντο,
1225 Ἄρτεμιν ἐννουχίησιν αἰεὶ μέλπεσθαι αἰοιδᾷς.
αἱ μὲν, ὅσαι σκοπιᾶς ὀρέων λάχον ἢ καὶ ἐναύλους,
αἶγε μὲν ὑλήωροι ἀπόπροθεν ἐστιχόωντο,
ἢ δὲ νέον κρήνης ἀνεδύετο καλλινάοιο
νύμφη ἐφυδατὴν· τὸν δὲ σχεδὸν εἰσενόησεν
1230 κάλλει καὶ γλυκερῇσιν ἐρευθόμενον χαρίτεσσιν.
πρὸς γάρ οἱ διχόμηνις ἀπ' αἰθέρος ἀνγάζουσα
βάλλε σεληναίη. τὴν δὲ φρένας ἐπτοίησεν
Κύπρις, ἀμηχανίη δὲ μόλις συναγείρατο θυμόν.
αὐτὰρ ὄγ' ὥς τὰ πρῶτα ῥόφ' ἐνὶ κάλπιν ἔρεισεν
1235 λέχρις ἐπιχριμφθεῖς, περὶ δ' ἄσπετον ἔβραχεν ὕδωρ
χαλκὸν ἐς ἡγήεντα φορεύμενον, αὐτίκα δ' ἤγε
λαιὸν μὲν καθύπερθεν ἐπ' αὐχένος ἄνθετο πῆχυν
κύσσαι ἐπιθύουσα τέρεν στόμα· δεξιτερῇ δὲ
ἀγκῶν' ἔσπασε χειρί, μέση δ' ἐνικάββαλε δίνη.

[1207] Meantime Hylas with pitcher of bronze in hand had gone apart from the throng, seeking the sacred flow of a fountain, that he might be quick in drawing water for the evening meal and actively make all things ready in due order against his lord's return. For in such ways did Heracles nurture him from his first childhood when he had carried him off from the house of his father, goodly Theiodamas, whom the hero pitilessly slew among the Dryopians because he withstood him about an ox for the plough. Theiodamas was cleaving with his plough the soil of fallow land when he was smitten with the curse; and Heracles bade him give up the ploughing ox against his will. For he desired to find some pretext for war against the Dryopians for their bane, since they dwelt there reckless of right. But these tales would lead me far astray from my song. And quickly Hylas came to the spring which the people who dwell thereabouts call Pegae. And the dances of the nymphs were just now being held there; for it was the care of all the nymphs that haunted that lovely headland ever to hymn Artemis in songs by night. All who held the mountain peaks or glens, all they were ranged far off guarding the woods; but one, a water-nymph was just rising from the fair-flowing spring; and the boy she perceived close at hand with the rosy flush of his beauty and sweet grace. For the full moon beaming from the sky smote him. And Cypris made her heart faint, and in her confusion she could scarcely gather her spirit back to her. But as soon as he dipped the pitcher in the stream, leaning to one side, and the brimming water rang loud as it poured against the sounding bronze, straightway she laid her left arm above upon his neck yearning to kiss his tender mouth; and with her right hand she drew down his elbow, and plunged him into the midst of the eddy.

1240 τοῦ δ' ἥρωος ἰάχοντος ἐπέκλυεν οἷος ἐταίρων
Εἰλατίδης Πολύφημος, ἰὼν προτέρωσε κελεύθου,

δέκτο γὰρ Ἡρακλῆα πελώριον, ὀπτόθ' ἵκοιτο.
 βῆ δὲ μεταΐξας Πηγέων σχεδόν, ἥντε τις θῆρ
 ἄγριος, ὃν ῥά τε γῆρυς ἀπόπροθεν ἵκετο μήλων,
 1245 λιμῶ δ' αἰθόμενος μετανίσσεται, οὐδ' ἐπέκυσεν
 ποίμνησιν: πρὸ γὰρ αὐτοῖ ἐνὶ σταθμοῖσι νομῆες
 ἔλσαν: ὁ δὲ στενάχων βρέμει ἄσπετον, ὄφρα κάμῃσιν:
 ὧς τότε ἄρ' Εἰλατίδης μεγάλ' ἔστενεν, ἀμφὶ δὲ χῶρον
 φοῖτα κεκληγῶς: μελέη δέ οἱ ἔπλετο φωνῇ.
 1250 αἶψα δ' ἔρυσσάμενος μέγα φάσγανον ὦρτο δῖεσθαι,
 μήπως ἢ θήρεσσιν ἔλωρ πέλοι, ἥέ μιν ἄνδρες
 μοῦνον ἐόντ' ἐλόχησαν, ἄγουσι δὲ ληΐδ' ἐτοίμην.
 ἐνθ' αὐτῷ ξύμβλητο κατὰ στίβον Ἡρακλῆι
 γυμνὸν ἐπαῖσσω παλάμη ξίφος: εὖ δέ μιν ἔγνω
 1255 σπερχόμενον μετὰ νῆα διὰ κνέφας. αὐτίκα δ' ἄτην
 ἔκφατο λευγαλέην, βεβαρημένος ἄσθματι θυμόν:
 'δαιμόνιε, στυγερόν τοι ἄχος πάμπρωτος ἐνὶ ψῶ.
 οὐ γὰρ Ὑλᾶς κρήνηνδε κιὼν σόος αὖτις ἰκάνει.
 ἀλλὰ ἐλπιστῆρες ἐνιχρίμψαντες ἄγουσιν,
 1260 ἢ θῆρες σίνονται: ἐγὼ δ' ἰάχοντος ἄκουσα.'

[1240] Alone of his comrades the hero Polyphemos, son of Eilatus, as he went forward on the path, heard the boy's cry, for he expected the return of mighty Heracles. And he rushed after the cry, near Pegae, like some beast of the wild wood whom the bleating of sheep has reached from afar, and burning with hunger he follows, but does not fall in with the flocks; for the shepherds beforehand have penned them in the fold, but he groans and roars vehemently until he is weary. Thus vehemently at that time did the son of Eilatus groan and wandered shouting round the spot; and his voice rang piteous. Then quickly drawing his great sword he started in pursuit, in fear lest the boy should be the prey of wild beasts, or men should have lain in ambush for him faring all alone, and be carrying him off, an easy prey. Hereupon as he brandished his bare sword in his hand he met Heracles himself on the path, and well he knew him as he hastened to the ship through the darkness. And straightway he told the wretched calamity while his heart laboured with his panting breath. "My poor friend, I shall be the first to bring thee tidings of bitter woe. Hylas has gone to the well and has not returned safe, but robbers have attacked and are carrying him off, or beasts are tearing him to pieces; I heard his cry."

ὧς φάτο: τῷ δ' αἰόντι κατὰ κροτάφων ἄλις ἰδρῶς
 κήκκιεν, ἐν δὲ κελαινὸν ὑπὸ σπλάγχνοις ζέεν αἶμα.
 χωόμενος δ' ἐλάτην χαμάδις βάλεν, ἐς δὲ κέλευθον
 τὴν θέεν, ἣ πόδες αὐτὸν ὑπέκφερον αἰσسونτα.
 1265 ὥς δ' ὅτε τίς τε μύωπι τετυμμένος ἔσσυτο ταῦρος
 πίσεα τε προλιπὼν καὶ ἐλεσπίδας, οὐδὲ νομῶν

οὐδ' ἀγέλης ὄθεται, πρήσσει δ' ὁδόν, ἄλλοτ' ἄπαυστος,
ἄλλοτε δ' ἰστάμενος, καὶ ἀνὰ πλατὺν αὐχέν' ἀείρων
ἦσιν μύκημα, κακῷ βεβολημένος οἴστρω:
1270 ὥς ὃγε μαιμῶων ὅτε μὲν θοὰ γούνατ' ἔπαλλεν
συνεχέως, ὅτε δ' αὐτε μεταλλήγων καμάτοιο
τῆλε διαπρύσιον μεγάλη βοάσκειν αὐτῇ.

[1261] Thus he spake; and when Heracles heard his words, sweat in abundance poured down from his temples and the black blood boiled beneath his heart. And in wrath he hurled the pine to the ground and hurried along the path whither his feet bore on his impetuous soul. And as when a bull stung by a gadfly tears along, leaving the meadows and the marsh land, and recks not of herdsmen or herd, but presses on, now without cheek, now standing still, and raising his broad neck he bellows loudly, stung by the maddening fly; so he in his frenzy now would ply his swift knees unresting, now again would cease from toil and shout afar with loud pealing cry.

αὐτίκα δ' ἀκροτάτας ὑπερέσχεθεν ἄκριας ἀστήρ
ἠῶος, πνοιαί δὲ κατήλυθον: ὦκα δὲ Τίφυς
1275 ἐσβαίνειν ὁρόθυνεν, ἐπαύρεσθαί τ' ἀνέμοιο.
οἱ δ' εἴσβαινον ἄφαρ λελιημένοι: ὕψι δὲ νηὶς
εὐναίας ἐρύσαντες ἀνεκρούσαντο κάλῳας.
κυρτώθη δ' ἀνέμῳ λῖνα μεσσόθι, τῆλε δ' ἀπ' ἀκτῆς
γηθόσυνοι φορέοντο παρὰ Ποσιδῆιον ἄκρην.
1280 ἦμος δ' οὐρανόθεν χαροπὴ ὑπολάμπεται ἠὼς
ἐκ περάτης ἀνιοῦσα, διαγλαύσσουσι δ' ἀταρποί,
καὶ πεδία δροσόεντα φαεινῇ λάμπεται αἴγλη,
τῆμος τούσγ' ἐνόησαν αἰδρεῖνσι λιπόντες.
ἐν δὲ σφιν κρατερὸν νεῖκος πέσεν, ἐν δὲ κολῳός
1285 ἄσπετος, εἰ τὸν ἄριστον ἀποπρολιπόντες ἔβησαν
σφωιτέρων ἐτάρων. ὁ δ' ἀμχανίησιν ἀτυχθεῖς
οὔτε τι τοῖον ἔπος μετεφώνεεν, οὔτε τι τοῖον
Αἰσονίδης: ἀλλ' ἦστο βαρεῖη νειόθεν ἄτη
θυμὸν ἔδων: Τελαμῶνα δ' ἔλεν χόλος, ὥδέ τ' ἔειπεν:
1290 'ἦσ' αὐτως εὐκηλος, ἐπεὶ τοι ἄρμενον ἦεν
Ἥρακλῆα λιπεῖν: σέο δ' ἔκτοθι μῆτις ὄρωρεν,
ὄφρα τὸ κείνου κῦδος ἀν' Ἑλλάδα μὴ σε καλύψῃ,
αἶ κε θεοὶ δώωσιν ὑπότροπον οἴκαδε νόστον.
ἀλλὰ τί μύθων ἦδος; ἐπεὶ καὶ νόσφιν ἐταίρων
1295 εἶμι τεῶν, οἳ τόνγε δόλον συνετεκτίναντο.'

[1273] But straightway the morning star rose above the topmost peaks and the breeze swept down; and quickly did Tiphys urge them to go aboard and avail themselves of the wind. And they embarked eagerly forthwith; and they drew up the ship's anchors and hauled the ropes astern. And the sails were bellied

out by the wind, and far from the coast were they joyfully borne past the Posideian headland. But at the hour when gladsome dawn shines from heaven, rising from the east, and the paths stand out clearly, and the dewy plains shine with a bright gleam, then at length they were aware that unwittingly they had abandoned those men. And a fierce quarrel fell upon them, and violent tumult, for that they had sailed and left behind the bravest of their comrades. And Aeson's son, bewildered by their hapless plight, said never a word, good or bad; but sat with his heavy load of grief, eating out his heart. And wrath seized Telamon, and thus he spake: "Sit there at thy ease, for it was fitting for thee to leave Heracles behind; from thee the project arose, so that his glory throughout Hellas should not overshadow thee, if so be that heaven grants us a return home. But what pleasure is there in words? For I will go, I only, with none of thy comrades, who have helped thee to plan this treachery."

ἦ, καὶ ἐς Ἀγνιάδην Τῖφυν θόρε· τῷ δέ οἱ ὄσσε
ὄστλιγγες μαλεροῖο πυρὸς ὥς ἰνδάλλοντο.
καὶ νύ κεν ἂν ὀπίσω Μυσῶν ἐπὶ γαῖαν ἵκοντο
λαῖτμα βηισάμενοι ἀνέμου τ' ἄλληκτον ἰωήν,
1300 εἰ μὴ Θρηικίῳ δὺν υἷες Βορέας
Αἰακίδην χαλεποῖσιν ἐρητύεσκον ἔπεσσιν,
σχέτλιοι· ἦ τέ σφιν στυγερὴ τίσις ἔπλετ' ὀπίσσω
χερσὶν ὑφ' Ἡρακλῆος, ὃ μιν δίζεσθαι ἔρुकον.
ἄθλων γὰρ Πελῖας δεδουπότος ἂν ἀνιόντας
1305 τήνῃ ἐν ἀμφιρύτῃ πέφνεν, καὶ ἀμήσατο γαῖαν
ἀμφ' αὐτοῖς, στήλας τε δὺν καθύπερθεν ἔτευξεν,
ὣν ἑτέρῃ, θάμβος περιώσιον ἀνδράσι λεύσσειν,
κίνονται ἡγήεντος ὑπὸ πνοιῇ βορέας.
καὶ τὰ μὲν ὥς ἤμελλε μετὰ χρόνον ἐκτελέεσθαι.
1310 τοῖσιν δὲ Γλαῦκος βρυχίης ἀλὸς ἐξεφάνθη,
Νηρηῶς θεῖοιο πολυφράδμων ὑποφήτης·
ὑψὶ δὲ λαχνῆεν τε κάρη καὶ στήθε' αἰείρας
νειόθεν ἐκ λαγόνων στιβαρῇ ἐπορέξατο χειρὶ
νηίου ὀλκαίοιο, καὶ ἴαχεν ἐσσυμένοισιν·
1315 'τίπτε παρὲκ μέγαλοιο Διὸς μενεαίνετε βουλὴν
Αἰήτεω πτολίεθρον ἄγειν θρασὺν Ἡρακλῆα;
Ἄργεῖ οἱ μοῖρ' ἐστὶν ἀτασθάλαξ Εὐρυσθῆι
ἐκπλήσαι μογέοντα δωδεκα πάντας ἀέθλους,
ναίειν δ' ἀθανάτοισι συνέστιον, εἴ κ' ἔτι παύρους
1320 ἐξανύσῃ· τῷ μὴ τι ποθὴ κείνοιο πελέεσθω.
αὐτῶς δ' αὖ Πολύφημον ἐπὶ προχοῇσι Κίῳιο
πέπρωται Μυσοῖσι περικλεὲς ἄστν καμόντα
μοῖραν ἀναπλήσειν Χαλύβων ἐν ἀπείρονι γαίῃ.
αὐτὰρ Ὅλαν φιλότῃ θεᾷ ποιήσατο νύμφῃ
1325 ὃν πόσιν, οἷό περ οὔνεκ' ἀποπλαγχθέντες ἔλειφθεν.'

[1296] He spake, and rushed upon Tiphys son of Hagnias; and his eyes sparkled like flashes of ravening flame. And they would quickly have turned back to the land of the Mysians, forcing their way through the deep sea and the unceasing blasts of the wind, had not the two sons of Thracian Boreas held back the son of Aeacus with harsh words. Hapless ones, assuredly a bitter vengeance came upon them thereafter at the hands of Heracles, because they stayed the search for him. For when they were returning from the games over Pelias dead he slew them in sea-girt Tenos and heaped the earth round them, and placed two columns above, one of which, a great marvel for men to see, moves at the breath of the blustering north wind. These things were thus to be accomplished in after times. But to them appeared Glaucus from the depths of the sea, the wise interpreter of divine Nereus, and raising aloft his shaggy head and chest from his waist below, with sturdy hand he seized the ship's keel, and then cried to the eager crew: "Why against the counsel of mighty Zeus do ye purpose to lead bold Heracles to the city of Aeetes? At Argos it is his fate to labour for insolent Eurystheus and to accomplish full twelve toils and dwell with the immortals, if so be that he bring to fulfilment a few more yet; wherefore let there be no vain regret for him. Likewise it is destined for Polyphemos to found a glorious city at the mouth of Cius among the Mysians and to fill up the measure of his fate in the vast land of the Chalybes. But a goddess-nymph through love has made Hylas her husband, on whose account those two wandered and were left behind."

ἦ, καὶ κῦμ' ἀλίσστον ἐφέσσατο νειόθι δῦψας:
ἀμφὶ δέ οἱ δίνησι κυκώμενον ἄφρεεν ὕδωρ
πορφύρεον, κοίλῃν δὲ διεξ ἄλὸς ἔκλυσε νῆα.
γῆθησαν δ' ἥρωες: ὁ δ' ἐσσυμένως ἐβεβήκει
1330 Αἰακίδης Τελαμὼν ἐς Ἴησονα, χεῖρα δὲ χειρὶ
ἄκρην ἀμφιβαλὼν προσπτύξατο, φώνησέν τε:
'Αἰσονίδη, μὴ μοί τι χολώσσαι, ἀφραδίησιν
εἴ τί περ ἀσάμην: πέρι γάρ μ' ἄχος εἶλεν ἐνισπεῖν
μῦθον ὑπερφιάλόν τε καὶ ἄσχετον, ἀλλ' ἀνέμοισιν
1335 δώομεν ἀμπλακίην, ὥς καὶ πάρος εὐμενέοντες.'

[1326] He spake, and with a plunge wrapped him about with the restless wave; and round him the dark water foamed in seething eddies and dashed against the hollow ship as it moved through the sea. And the heroes rejoiced, and Telamon son of Aeacus came in haste to Jason, and grasping his hand in his own embraced him with these words: "Son of Aeson, be not wroth with me, if in my folly I have erred, for grief wrought upon me to utter a word arrogant and intolerable. But let me give my fault to the winds and let our hearts be joined as before."

τὸν δ' αὖτ' Αἷσωνος υἱὸς ἐπιφραδέως προσέειπεν:
'ὦ πέπον, ἦ μάλα δὴ με κακῶ ἐκδύασσαι μῦθω,

φᾶς ἐνὶ τοῖσιν ἅπασιν ἐνθέος ἀνδρὸς ἀλείψην
ἔμμεναι. ἀλλ' οὐ θὴν τοι ἀδευκέα μῆνιν ἀέξω,
1340 πρὶν περ ἀνηθείς: ἐπεὶ οὐ περὶ πώεσι μῆλων,
οὐδὲ περὶ κτεάτεσσι χαλεπῶμένος μενέηνας,
ἀλλ' ἐτάρου περὶ φωτός. ἔολπα δέ τοι σὲ καὶ ἄλλω
ἀμφ' ἐμεῦ, εἰ τοιόνδε πέλοι ποτέ, δηρίσασθαι.'

[1336] Him the son of Aeson with prudence addressed: "Good friend, assuredly with an evil word didst thou revile me, saying before them all that I was the wronger of a kindly man. But not for long will I nurse bitter wrath, though indeed before I was grieved. For it was not for flocks of sheep, no, nor for possessions that thou wast angered to fury, but for a man, thy comrade. And I were fain thou wouldst even champion me against another man if a like thing should ever befall me."

ἦ ῥα, καὶ ἄρθμηθέντες, ὅπῃ πάρος, ἐδριόωντο.
1345 τὼ δὲ Διὸς βουλῇσιν, ὁ μὲν Μυσοῖσι βαλέσθαι
μέλλεν ἐπώνυμον ἄστρ' ὀλίσσάμενος ποταμοῖο
Εἰλατίδης Πολύφημος: ὁ δ' Εὐρυσθέης ἀέθλους
αὐτίς ἰὼν πονέεσθαι. ἐπηπείλησε δὲ γαῖαν
Μυσίδ' ἀναστήσειν αὐτοσχεδόν, ὅππότε μὴ οἱ
1350 ἦ ζωὸν εὔροιεν Ὕλα μόνον, ἢ θανάοντος.
τοῖο δὲ ῥύσι' ὅπασσαν ἀποκρίναντες ἀρίστους
υἱέας ἐκ δήμοιο, καὶ ὄρκια ποιήσαντο,
μῆποτε μαστεύοντες ἀπολλήξιν καμάτοιο.
τουνέκεν εἰσέτι νῦν περ Ὕλαν ἐρέουσι Κιανοί,
1355 κοῦρον Θειοδάμαντος, ἐυκτιμένης τε μέλονται
Τρηχῖνος. δὴ γάρ ῥα κατ' αὐτόθι νάσσατο παῖδας,
οὓς οἱ ῥύσια κείθεν ἐπιπροέηκαν ἄγεσθαι.

[1344] He spake, and they sat down, united as of old. But of those two, by the counsel of Zeus, one, Polyphemus son of Eilatus, was destined to found and build a city among the Mysians bearing the river's name, and the other, Heracles, to return and toil at the labours of Eurystheus. And he threatened to lay waste the Mysian land at once, should they not discover for him the doom of Hylas, whether living or dead. And for him they gave pledges choosing out the noblest sons of the people and took an oath that they would never cease from their labour of search. Therefore to this day the people of Cius enquire for Hylas the son of Theiodamas, and take thought for the well-built Trachis. For there did Heracles settle the youths whom they sent from Cius as pledges.

Νῆυν δὲ πανημερίην ἄνεμος φέρε νυκτί τε πάση
λάβρος ἐπιπνείων: ἀτὰρ οὐδ' ἐπὶ τυτθὸν ἤτο
1360 ἠοῦς τελλομένης, οἱ δὲ χθονὸς εἰσανέχουσιν
ἀκτὴν ἐκ κόλποιο μάλ' εὐρεῖαν ἐσιδέσθαι
φρασσάμενοι, κόπησιν ἅμ' ἡελίῳ ἐπέκελσαν

[1358] And all day long and all night the wind bore the ship on, blowing fresh and strong; but when dawn rose there was not even a breath of air. And they marked a beach jutting forth from a bend of the coast, very broad to behold, and by dint of rowing came to land at sunrise.

BOOK II.

ἐνθα δ' ἔσαν σταθμοὶ τε βοῶν αὖλῖς τ' Ἀμύκοιο,
Βεβρύκων βασιλῆος ἀγήνορος, ὃν ποτε νύμφη
τίκτε Ποσειδάωνι Γενεθλίῳ εὐνηθεῖσα
Βιθυνὶς Μελίη, ὑπεροπληέστατον ἀνδρῶν:
5 ὃς τ' ἐπὶ καὶ ξείνοισιν ἀεικέα θεσμὸν ἔθηκεν,
μήτιν' ἀποστείχειν, πρὶν πειρήσασθαι ἐοῖο
πυγμαχίης: πολέας δὲ περικτιόνων ἐδάϊζεν.
καὶ δὲ τότε προτὶ νῆα κιών, χρεῖώ μιν ἐρέσθαι
ναυτιλίας, οἳ τ' εἶεν, ὑπερβασίησιν ἄτισσεν,
10 τοῖον δ' ἐν πάντεσσι παρασχεδὸν ἔκφατο μῦθον:
'Κέκλυθ', ἀλίπλαγκτοι, τάπερ ἴδμεναι ὕμιν ἔοικεν.
οὐτίνα θέσμιόν ἐστιν ἀφορμηθέντα νέεσθαι
ἀνδρῶν ὀθνείων, ὅς κεν Βέβρυξι πελάσση,
πρὶν χεῖρεσσιν ἐμῇσιν ἐὰς ἀνὰ χεῖρας ἀεῖραι.
15 τῷ καὶ μοι τὸν ἄριστον ἀποκριδὸν οἶον ὁμίλου
πυγμαχίῃ στήσασθε καταυτόθι δηρινθῆναι.
εἰ δ' ἂν ἀπηλεγέοντες ἐμὰς πατέοιτε θέμιστας,
ἧ κέν τις στυγερῶς κρατερὴ ἐπιέψεται' ἀνάγκη.'

[1] Here were the oxstalls and farm of Amycus, the haughty king of the Bebrycians, whom once a nymph, Bithynian Melie, united to Poseidon Genethlius, bare the most arrogant of men; for even for strangers he laid down an insulting ordinance, that none should depart till they had made trial of him in boxing; and he had slain many of the neighbours. And at that time too he went down to the ship and in his insolence scorned to ask them the occasion of their voyage, and who they were, but at once spake out among them all: "Listen, ye wanderers by sea, to what it befits you to know. It is the rule that no stranger who comes to the Bebrycians should depart till he has raised his hands in battle against mine. Wherefore select your bravest warrior from the host and set him here on the spot to contend with me in boxing. But if ye pay no heed and trample my decrees under foot, assuredly to your sorrow will stern necessity come upon you.

ἧ ῥα μέγα φρονέων: τοὺς δ' ἄγριος εἰσαΐοντας
20 εἶλε χόλος: περὶ δ' αὖ Πολυδεύκεα τύψεν ὁμοκλῆ
αἶψα δ' ἑὼν ἐτάρων πρόμος ἴστατο, φώνησέν τε:
'ἴσχεο νῦν, μηδ' ἄμμι κακὴν, ὅτις εὐχεται εἶναι,
φαῖνε βίην: θεσμοῖς γὰρ ὑπεῖξομεν, ὥς ἀγορεύεις.
αὐτὸς ἐκὼν ἤδη τοι ὑπίσχομαι ἀντιάσθαι.'

[19] Thus he spake in his pride, but fierce anger seized them when they heard it, and the challenge smote Polydeuces most of all. And quickly he stood forth

his comrades' champion, and cried: "Hold now, and display not to us thy brutal violence, whoever thou art; for we will obey thy rules, as thou sayest. Willingly now do I myself undertake to meet thee."

25 ὣς φάτ' ἀπηλεγέως· ὁ δ' ἐσέδρακεν ὄμμαθ' ἐλίξας,
ὥστε λέων ὑπ' ἄκοντι τετυμμένος, ὃν τ' ἐν ὄρεσσι
ἄνδρες ἀμφιπένονται· ὁ δ' ἰλλόμενός περ ὀμίλῳ
τῶν μὲν ἔτ' οὐκ ἀλέγει, ἐπὶ δ' ὄσσεται οἰόθεν οἶον
ἄνδρα τόν, ὃς μιν ἔτυψε παροίτατος, οὐδ' ἐδάμασσαν.
30 ἔνθ' ἀπὸ Τυνδαρίδης μὲν εὐστιπτον θέτο φάρος
λεπταλέον, τό ρά οἱ τις ἐὼν ξεινήιον εἶναι
ᾧπασε Λημνιάδων· ὁ δ' ἐρεμνὴν δίπτυχα λώπην
αὐτῇσιν περόνησι καλαύροπα τε τρηχεῖαν
κάββαλε, τὴν φορέεσκεν, ὀριτρεφὲς κοτίνιοι.
35 αὐτίκα δ' ἐγγύθι χώρον ἐαδότα παπτήναντες
ἶζον ἐοὺς δίχα πάντας ἐνὶ ψαμάθοισιν ἐταίρους,
οὐ δέμας, οὐδὲ φυὴν ἐναλίγκιοι εἰσοράασθαι.
ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν ἦ ὀλοοῖο Τυφώος, ἥε καὶ αὐτῆς
γαίης εἶναι ἔικτο πέλωρ τέκος, οἷα πάροιθεν
40 χωομένη Διὶ τίκτεν· ὁ δ' οὐρανίῳ ἀτάλαντος
ἀστέρι Τυνδαρίδης, οὐπὲρ κάλλισται ἔασιν
ἐσπερίην διὰ νύκτα φαεινομένου ἀμαρυγαί.
τοῖος ἔην Διὸς υἱός, ἔτι χνοάοντας ἰούλους
ἀντέλλων, ἔτι φαιδρὸς ἐν ὄμμασιν. ἀλλὰ οἱ ἀλκῇ
45 καὶ μένος ἥτε θηρὸς ἀέξετο· πῆλε δὲ χεῖρας
πειράζων, εἴθ' ὥς πρὶν ἐντρόχαλοι φορέονται,
μηδ' ἄμυδις καμάτῳ τε καὶ εἰρεσίῃ βαρύθοιεν
οὐ μὰν αὖτ' Ἄμυκος πειρήσατο· σῖγα δ' ἄπωθεν
ἐστήως εἰς αὐτὸν ἔχ' ὄμματα, καὶ οἱ ὀρέχθει
50 θυμὸς ἐελδομένῳ στηθέων ἐξ αἷμα κεδάσσαι.
τοῖσι δὲ μεσσηγὺς θεράπων Ἀμύκοιο Λυκωρεὺς
θῆκε πάροιθε ποδῶν δοιοὺς ἐκάτερθεν ἱμάντας
ὠμούς, ἀζαλέους, περὶ δ' οἷγ' ἔσαν ἐσκληῶτες.
αὐτὰρ ὁ τόνγ' ἐπέεσσιν ὑπερφιάλοισι μετηρῶδα·
55 'τῶνδ' ἐ τοι ὃν κ' ἐθέλησθα, πάλου ἄτερ ἐγγυαλίζω
αὐτὸς ἐκὼν, ἵνα μὴ μοι ἀτέμβηαι μετόπισθεν.
ἀλλὰ βάλευ περὶ χειρί· δαεῖς δέ κεν ἄλλῳ ἐνίσποις,
ὅσσον ἐγὼ ῥίνους τε βοῶν περίεμι ταμέσθαι
ἀζαλέας, ἀνδρῶν τε παρηίδας αἵματι φύρσαι.'

[25] Thus he spake outright; but the other with rolling eyes glared on him, like to a lion struck by a javelin when hunters in the mountains are hemming him round, and, though pressed by the throng, he reeks no more of them, but keeps his eyes fixed, singling out that man only who struck him first and slew him not. Hereupon the son of Tyndareus laid aside his mantle, closely-woven,

delicately-wrought, which one of the Lemnian maidens had given him as a pledge of hospitality; and the king threw down his dark cloak of double fold with its clasps and the knotted crook of mountain olive which he carried. Then straightway they looked and chose close by a spot that pleased them and bade their comrades sit upon the sand in two lines; nor were they alike to behold in form or in stature. The one seemed to be a monstrous son of baleful Typhoeus or of Earth herself, such as she brought forth aforetime, in her wrath against Zeus; but the other, the son of Tyndareus, was like a star of heaven, whose beams are fairest as it shines through the nightly sky at eventide. Such was the son of Zeus, the bloom of the first down still on his cheeks, still with the look of gladness in his eyes. But his might and fury waxed like a wild beast's; and he poised his hands to see if they were pliant as before and were not altogether numbed by toil and rowing. But Amycus on his side made no trial; but standing apart in silence he kept his eyes upon his foe, and his spirit surged within him all eager to dash the life-blood from his breast. And between them Lyeoreus, the henchman of Amycus, placed at their feet on each side two pairs of gauntlets made of raw hide, dry, exceeding tough. And the king addressed the hero with arrogant words: "Whichever of these thou wilt, without casting lots, I grant thee freely, that thou mayst not blame me hereafter. Bind them about thy hands; thou shalt learn and tell another how skilled I am to carve the dry oxhides and to spatter men's cheeks with blood."

60 ὥς ἔφατ'· αὐτὰρ ὅγ' οὔτι παραβλήδην ἐρίδηνεν.
ἦκα δὲ μειδήσας, οἱ οἱ παρὰ ποσσὶν ἔκειντο,
τοὺς ἔλεν ἀπροφάτως· τοῦ δ' ἀντίος ἦλυθε Κάστωρ
ἠδὲ Βιαντιάδης Ταλαὸς μέγας· ὧκα δ' ἱμάντας
ἀμφέδεον, μάλα πολλὰ παρηγορέοντες ἐς ἀλκήν.
65 τῷ δ' αὖτ' Ἀρητός τε καὶ Ὀρνυτος, οὐδέ τι ἦδιν
νῆπιον ὕστατα κεῖνα κακῇ δῆσαντες ἐν αἴσῃ.

[60] Thus he spake; but the other gave back no taunt in answer, but with a light smile readily took up the gauntlets that lay at his feet; and to him came Castor and mighty Talaus, son of Bias, and they quickly bound the gauntlets about his hands, often bidding him be of good courage. And to Amycus came Aretus and Ornytus, but little they knew, poor fools, that they had bound them for the last time on their champion, a victim of evil fate.

οἱ δ' ἐπεὶ οὖν ἱμάσι διασταδὸν ἠρτύναντο,
αὐτίκ' ἀνασχόμενοι ῥεθέων προπάροιθε βαρεῖας
χεῖρας, ἐπ' ἀλλήλοισι μένος φέρον ἀντιόωντες.
70 ἔνθα δὲ Βεβρύκων μὲν ἄναξ, ἃ τε κῦμα θαλάσσης
τρηχὺ θοὴν ἐπὶ νῆα κορύσσεται, ἣ δ' ὑπὸ τυτθὸν
ἰδρεῖη πυκινοῖο κυβερνητῆρος ἀλύσκει,
ἱεμένου φορέεσθαι ἔσω τοίχοιο κλύδωνος,
ὧς ὅγε Τυνδαρίδην φοβέων ἔπετ', οὐδέ μιν εἶα

75 δηθύνειν. ὁ δ' ἄρ' αἰὲν ἀνούτατος ἦν διὰ μῆτιν
αἰσσοῦντ' ἀλέεινεν· ἀπηνέα δ' αἴψα νοήσας
πυγμαχίην, ἧ κάρτος ἀάατος, ἧ τε χερείων,
στῆ ῥ' ἄμοτον καὶ χερσὶν ἐναντία χεῖρας ἔμιξεν.
ὥς δ' ὅτε νῆια δοῦρα θοοῖς ἀντίζοα γόμοις
80 ἄνδρες ὕληουργοὶ ἐπιβλήδην ἐλάοντες
θείνωσι σφύρησιν, ἐπ' ἄλλω δ' ἄλλος ἄηται
δοῦπος ἄδην· ὥς τοῖσι παρήϊά τ' ἀμφοτέρωθεν
καὶ γένυες κτύπεον· βρυχή δ' ὑπετέλλετ' ὀδόντων
ἄσπετος, οὐδ' ἔλληξαν ἐπισταδὸν οὐτάζοντες,
85 ἔστε περ οὐλοὸν ἄσθμα καὶ ἀμφοτέρους ἐδάμασσαν.
στάντε δὲ βαιὸν ἄπωθεν ἀπωμόρξαντο μετώπων
ἰδρῶ ἄλῃς, καματηρὸν ἀντμένα φυσιόωντε.
ἄψ δ' αὖτις συνόρουσαν ἐναντίοι, ἥυτε ταύρω
φορβάδος ἀμφὶ βοδὸς κεκοτηότε δηριάσθον.
90 ἔνθα δ' ἔπειτ' Ἄμυκος μὲν ἐπ' ἀκροτάτοισιν ἀερθεῖς,
βουτύπος οἶα, πόδεσσι τανύσσατο, καδ δὲ βαρεῖαν
χεῖρ' ἐπὶ οἱ πελέμιξεν· ὁ δ' αἰζαντος ὑπέστη,
κρᾶτα παρακλίνας, ὦμω δ' ἀνεδέξατο πῆχυν
τυτθόν· ὁ δ' ἄγχ' αὐτοῖο παρὲκ γόνυ γουνὸς ἀμσίβων
95 κόψε μεταῖγδην ὑπὲρ οὔατος, ὅστέα δ' εἴσω
ῥῆξεν· ὁ δ' ἀμφ' ὀδύνῃ γνύξ ἤριπεν· οἱ δ' ἰάχησαν
ἥρωες Μινύαι· τοῦ δ' ἀθρόος ἔκχυτο θυμός.

[67] Now when they stood apart and were ready with their gauntlets, straightway in front of their faces they raised their heavy hands and matched their might in deadly strife. Hereupon the Bebrycian king even as a fierce wave of the sea rises in a crest against a swift ship, but she by the skill of the crafty pilot just escapes the shock when the billow is eager to break over the bulwark — so he followed up the son of Tyndareus, trying to daunt him, and gave him no respite. But the hero, ever unwounded, by his skill baffled the rush of his foe, and he quickly noted the brutal play of his fists to see where he was invincible in strength, and where inferior, and stood unceasingly and returned blow for blow. And as when shipwrights with their hammers smite ships' timbers to meet the sharp clamps, fixing layer upon layer; and the blows resound one after another; so cheeks and jaws crashed on both sides, and a huge clattering of teeth arose, nor did they cease ever from striking their blows until laboured gasping overcame both. And standing a little apart they wiped from their foreheads sweat in abundance, wearily panting for breath. Then back they rushed together again, as two bulls fight in furious rivalry for a grazing heifer. Next Amycus rising on tiptoe, like one who slays an ox, sprung to his full height and swung his heavy hand down upon his rival; but the hero swerved aside from the rush, turning his head, and just received the arm on his shoulder; and coming near and slipping his knee past the king's, with a rush he struck him above the ear, and broke the bones inside, and the

king in agony fell upon his knees; and the Minyan heroes shouted for joy; and his life was poured forth all at once.

οὐδ' ἄρα Βέβρυκες ἄνδρες ἀφείδισαν βασιλῆος·
ἀλλ' ἄμυδις κορύνας ἀζηχέας ἠδὲ σιγύννους
100 ἰθὺς ἀνασχόμενοι Πολυδεύκεος ἀντιάσσκον.
τοῦ δὲ πάρος κολεῶν εὐήκεα φάσαν· ἑταῖροι
ἔσταν ἐρυσσάμενοι. πρῶτός γε μὲν ἀνέρα Κάστωρ
ἦλασ' ἐπεσσύμενον κεφαλῆς ὕπερ· ἡ δ' ἐκάτερθεν
ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθ' ὥμοισιν ἐπ' ἀμφοτέροις ἐκεάσθη.
105 αὐτὸς δ' Ἴτυμονῆα πελώριον ἠδὲ Μίμαντα,
τὸν μὲν ὑπὸ στέρνοιο θοῶ ποδι λάξ ἐπορούσας
πληῖξε, καὶ ἐν κονίῃσι βάλεν· τοῦ δ' ἄσσον ἰόντος
δεξιτερῇ σκαιῆς ὑπὲρ ὀφρύος ἦλασε χειρί,
δρῦσε δὲ οἱ βλέφαρον, γυμνὴ δ' ὑπελείπετ' ὀπωπῇ.
110 Ὠρεΐδης δ' Ἀμύκοιο βίην ὑπέροπλος ὀπάων
οὔτα Βιαντιάδαο κατὰ λαπάρην Ταλαοῖο,
ἀλλὰ μιν οὐ κατέπεφνε, ὅσον δ' ἐπὶ δέρματι μοῦνον
νηδυῖων ἄψαυστος ὑπὸ ζώνην θόρε χαλκός.
αὐτὼς δ' Ἄρητος μενεδήιον Εὐρύτου υἱά
115 Ἴφιτον ἀζαλέῃ κορύνῃ στυφέλιξεν ἐλάσσας,
οὔπω κηρὶ κακῇ πεπρωμένον· ἦ τάχ' ἔμελλεν
αὐτὸς δηώσεσθαι ὑπὸ ξίφεϊ Κλυτίοιο.
καὶ τότε ἄρ' Ἀγκαῖος Λυκοόργιοιο θρασὺς υἱὸς
αἶψα μάλ' ἀντεταγὼν πέλεκυν μέγαν ἠδὲ κελαινὸν
120 ἄρκτου προσχόμενος σκαιῇ δέρος ἔνθορε μέσσω
ἐμμεμαῶς Βέβρυξιν· ὁμοῦ δὲ οἱ ἐσσεύοντο
Αἰακίδαί, σὺν δὲ σφιν ἀρήιος ὄρνυτ' Ἰήσων.
ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἐνὶ σταθμοῖσιν ἀπείρονα μῆλ' ἐφόβησαν
ἥματι χειμερίῳ πολλοὶ λύκοι ὀρμηθέντες
125 λάθρῃ ἐνυρρίνων τε κυνῶν αὐτῶν τε νομῶν,
μαίονται δ' ὅ τι πρῶτον ἐπαΐξαντες ἔλωσιν,
πόλλ' ἐπιταμφαλόωντες ὁμοῦ· τὰ δὲ πάντοθεν αὐτῶς
στείνονται πίπτοντα περὶ σφίσιν· ὧς ἄρα τοίγε
λευγαλέως Βέβρυκας ὑπερφιάλους ἐφόβησαν.
130 ὥς δὲ μελισσάων σμῆνος μέγα μηλοβοτῆρης
ἦε μελισσοκόμοι πέτρῃ ἐνὶ καπνιώσιν,
αἱ δ' ἦτοι τείως μὲν ἀολλέες ᾗ ἐνὶ σίμβλῳ
βομβηδὸν κλονέονται, ἐπιπρὸ δὲ λιγνυόεντι
καπνῷ τυφόμεναι πέτρης ἐκὰς αἰίσσουσιν·
135 ὧς οἷγ' οὐκέτι δὴν μένον ἔμπεδον, ἀλλ' ἐκέδασθεν
εἴσω Βεβρυκίης, Ἀμύκου μόρον ἀγγελέοντες·
νήπιοι, οὐδ' ἐνόησαν ὃ δὴ σφισιν ἐγγύθεν ἄλλο
πῆμ' αἰδηλὸν ἔην. πέρθοντο γὰρ ἡμὲν ἄλωαι
ἠδ' οἶαι τῆμος δῆψ ὑπὸ δουρὶ Λύκοιο

140 καὶ Μαρνανδυνῶν ἀνδρῶν, ἀπεόντος ἄνακτος.
 αἶει γὰρ μάρναντο σιδηροφόρου περὶ γαίης.
 οἱ δ' ἤδη σταθμούς τε καὶ αὐλῖα δηιάσκον:
 ἤδη δ' ἄσπετα μῆλα περιτροπάδην ἐτάμοντο
 ἥρωες, καὶ δὴ τις ἔπος μετὰ τοῖσιν ἔειπεν:
 145 'Φράζεσθ' ὅττι κεν ἦσιν ἀναλκείησιν ἔρεξαν,
 εἴ πως Ἥρακλῆα θεὸς καὶ δεῦρ' ἐκόμισσε.
 ἦτοι μὲν γὰρ ἐγὼ κείνου παρεόντος ἔολπα
 οὐδ' ἂν πυγμαχίῃ κρινθήμεναι: ἀλλ' ὅτε θεσμούς
 ἤλυθεν ἐξερέων, αὐτοῖς ἄφαρ οἷς ἀγόρευεν
 150 θεσμοῖσιν ῥοπάλω μιν ἀγηνορίης λελαθέσθαι.
 ναὶ μὲν ἀκήδεστον γαίῃ ἐνὶ τόνγε λιπόντες
 πόντον ἐπέπλωμεν: μάλα δ' ἡμέων αὐτὸς ἕκαστος
 εἴσεται οὐλομένην ἄτην, ἀπάνευθεν ἐόντος.'

[98] Nor were the Bebrycians reckless of their king; but all together took up rough clubs and spears and rushed straight on Polydeuces. But in front of him stood his comrades, their keen swords drawn from the sheath. First Castor struck upon the head a man as he rushed at him: and it was cleft in twain and fell on each side upon his shoulders. And Polydeuces slew huge Itymoneus and Mimas. The one, with a sudden leap, he smote beneath the breast with his swift foot and threw him in the dust; and as the other drew near he struck him with his right hand above the left eyebrow, and tore away his eyelid and the eyeball was left bare. But Oreides, insolent henchman of Amycus, wounded Talaus son of Bias in the side, but did not slay him, but only grazing the skin the bronze sped under his belt and touched not the flesh. Likewise Aretus with well-seasoned club smote Iphitus, the steadfast son of Eurytus, not yet destined to an evil death; assuredly soon was he himself to be slain by the sword of Clytius. Then Ancaeus, the dauntless son of Lycurgus, quickly seized his huge axe, and in his left hand holding a bear's dark hide, plunged into the midst of the Bebrycians with furious onset; and with him charged the sons of Aeacus, and with them started warlike Jason. And as when amid the folds grey wolves rush down on a winter's day and scare countless sheep, unmarked by the keen-scented dogs and the shepherds too, and they seek what first to attack and carry off; often glaring around, but the sheep are just huddled together and trample on one another; so the heroes grievously scared the arrogant Bebrycians. And as shepherds or beekeepers smoke out a huge swarm of bees in a rock, and they meanwhile, pent up in their hive, murmur with droning hum, till, stupefied by the murky smoke, they fly forth far from the rock; so they stayed steadfast no longer, but scattered themselves inland through Bebrycia, proclaiming the death of Amycus; fools, not to perceive that another woe all unforeseen was hard upon them. For at that hour their vineyards and villages were being ravaged by the hostile spear of Lycus and the Mariandyni, now that their king was gone. For they were ever at strife about the ironbearing land. And now the foe was destroying their steadings

and farms, and now the heroes from all sides were driving off their countless sheep, and one spake among his fellows thus: “Bethink ye what they would have done in their cowardice if haply some god had brought Heracles hither. Assuredly, if he had been here, no trial would there have been of fists, I ween, but when the king drew near to proclaim his rules, the club would have made him forget his pride and the rules to boot. Yea, we left him uncared for on the strand and we sailed oversea; and full well each one of us shall know our baneful folly, now that he is far away.”

ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη: τὰ δὲ πάντα Διὸς βουλῆς ἐτέτυκτο.
155 καὶ τότε μὲν μένον αὖθι διὰ κνέφας, ἔλκεά τ' ἀνδρῶν
οὐταμένων ἀκέοντο, καὶ ἀθανάτοισι θυηλὰς
ῥέξαντες μέγα δόρπον ἐφώπλισαν: οὐδέ τιν' ὕπνος
εἶλε παρὰ κρητῆρι καὶ αἰθομένοις ἱεροῖσιν.
ξανθὰ δ' ἐρεψάμενοι δάφνη καθύπερθε μέτωπα
160 ἀγχιάλῳ, τῇ, ἀκτῇ ἔπι, πρυμνήσι' ἀνῆπτο,
Ὀρφεῖ φόρμιγγι συνοίμιον ὕμνον ᾄειδον
ἐμμελέως: περὶ δέ σφιν ἰαίνετο νήνεμος ἀκτὴ
μελπομένοις: κλεῖον δὲ Θεραπναῖον Διὸς υἱά.

[154] Thus he spake, but all these things had been wrought by the counsels of Zeus. Then they remained there through the night and tended the hurts of the wounded men, and offered sacrifice to the immortals, and made ready a mighty meal; and sleep fell upon no man beside the bowl and the blazing sacrifice. They wreathed their fair brows with the bay that grew by the shore, whereto their hawsers were bound, and chanted a song to the lyre of Orpheus in sweet harmony; and the windless shore was charmed by their song; and they celebrated the Therapnaean son of Zeus.

ἦμος δ' ἥελιος δροσερὰς ἐπέλαμψε κολώνας
165 ἐκ περάτων ἀνίων, ἤγειρε δὲ μηλοβοτῆρας,
δὴ τότε λυσάμενοι νεάτης ἐκ πείσματα δάφνης,
ληίδα τ' εἰσβήσαντες ὅσην χρεὼ ἦεν ἄγεσθαι,
πνοιῇ δινήεντ' ἀνὰ Βόσπορον ἰθύονοντο.
ἐνθα μὲν ἡλιβάτῳ ἐναλίγκιον οὖρεϊ κῦμα
170 ἀμφέρεται προπάροιθεν ἐπαῖσσοντι ἐοικός,
αἰὲν ὑπὲρ νεφέων ἡερμένον: οὐδέ κε φαίης
φεύξεσθαι κακὸν οἶτον, ἐπεὶ μάλα μεσσόθι νηὸς
λάβρον ἐπικρέμαται, καθάπερ νέφος. ἀλλὰ τόγ' ἔμπηξ
στόρνυται, εἴ κ' ἐσθλοῖο κυβερνητῆρος ἐπαύρη.
175 τῷ καὶ Τίφυος οἶδε δαημοσύνησι νέοντο,
ἀσκηθεῖς μὲν, ἀτὰρ πεφοβημένοι. ἦματι δ' ἄλλῳ
ἀντιπέρην γαίῃ Βιθυνίδι πείσματ' ἀνῆψαν.

[164] But when the sun rising from far lands lighted up the dewy hills and wakened the shepherds, then they loosed their hawsers from the stem of the

baytree and put on board all the spoil they had need to take; and with a favouring wind they steered through the eddying Bosphorus. Hereupon a wave like a steep mountain rose aloft in front as though rushing upon them, ever upheaved above the clouds; nor would you say that they could escape grim death, for in its fury it hangs over the middle of the ship, like a cloud, yet it sinks away into calm if it meets with a skilful helmsman. So they by the steering-craft of Tiphys escaped, unhurt but sore dismayed. And on the next day they fastened the hawsers to the coast opposite the Bithynian land.

ἐνθα δ' ἐπάκτιον οἶκον Ἀγηνορίδης ἔχε Φινεύς,
ὃς περὶ δὴ πάντων ὀλοώτατα πῆματ' ἀνέτλη
180 εἵνεκα μαντοσύνης, τὴν οἱ πάρος ἐγγυάλιξεν
Λητοῖδης· οὐδ' ὅσπον ὀπίζετο καὶ Διὸς αὐτοῦ
χρεῖων ἀτρεκέως ἱερὸν νόον ἀνθρώποισιν.
τῷ καὶ οἱ γῆρας μὲν ἐπὶ δηναιὸν ἴαλλεν,
ἐκ δ' ἔλετ' ὀφθαλμῶν γλυκερὸν φάος· οὐδὲ γάνυσθαι
185 εἶα ἀπειρεσίοισιν ὀνειάσιν, ὅσσα οἱ αἰεὶ
θέσφατα πευθόμενοι περιναίεται οἴκαδ' ἄγειρον.
ἀλλὰ διὰ νεφέων ἄφνω πέλας αἰσσοῦσαι
ἄρπυιαι στόματος χειρῶν τ' ἀπὸ γαμφηλῆσιν
συνεχέως ἥρπαζον. ἐλείπετο δ' ἄλλοτε φορβῆς
190 οὐδ' ὅσον, ἄλλοτε τυτθόν, ἵνα ζῶων ἀκάχοιτο.
καὶ δ' ἐπὶ μυδαλέην ὁδμὴν χέον· οὐδέ τις ἔτλη
μὴ καὶ λευκανίηνδε φορεῦμενος, ἀλλ' ἀποτηλοῦ
ἐστηώς· τοῖόν οἱ ἀπέπνεε λείψανα δαιτός.
αὐτίκα δ' εἰσαΐων ἐνοπὴν καὶ δοῦπον ὀμίλου
195 τοῦσδ' αὐτοὺς παριόντας ἐπήισεν, ὧν οἱ ἰόντων
θέσφατον ἐκ Διὸς ἦεν ἐῆς ἀπόνασθαι ἐδωδῆς.
ὀρθωθείς δ' εὐνήθεν, ἀκήριον ἡῦτ' ὄνειρον,
βάκτρῳ σκηπτόμενος ῥικνοῖς ποσὶν ἦε θύραζε,
τοίχους ἀμφοφόων· τρέμε δ' ἄψα νισσομένοιο
200 ἀδρανίῃ γῆραι τε· πίνῃ δέ οἱ αὐσταλέος χρῶς
ἐσκλήκει, ῥίνοι δὲ σὺν ὅστέα μῦνον ἔεργον.
ἐκ δ' ἐλθὼν μέγαροιο καθέζετο γούνα βαρυνθεῖς
οὐδοῦ ἐπ' αὐλείοιο· κάρος δέ μιν ἀμφεκάλυψεν
πορφύρεος, γαῖαν δὲ πέριξ ἐδόκησε φέρεσθαι
205 νειόθεν, ἀβληχρῷ δ' ἐπὶ κώματι κέκλιτ' ἄναυδος.
οἱ δέ μιν ὥς εἶδοντο, περισταδὸν ἠγερέθοντο
καὶ τάφον. αὐτὰρ ὁ τοῖσι μάλα μόλις ἐξ ὑπάτοιο
στήθεος ἀμπνεύσας μετεφώνεε μαντοσύνησιν·
'κλῦτε, Πανελλήνων προφερέστατοι, εἰ ἐτεὸν δὴ
210 οἶδ' ὑμεῖς, οὓς δὴ κρυερῇ βασιλῆος ἐφετμῇ
Ἀργῶς ἐπὶ νηὸς ἄγει μετὰ κῶας Ἰήσων.
ὑμεῖς ἀτρεκέως. ἔτι μοι νόος οἶδεν ἕκαστα
ἥσι θεοπροπίησι. χάριν νῦ τοι, ὦ ἄνα Λητοῦς

υἷέ, καὶ ἀργαλέοισιν ἀνάπτομαι ἐν καμάτοισιν.
 215 Ἴκεσιού πρὸς Ζηνός, ὅτις ῥίγιστος ἀλιτροῖς
 ἀνδράσι, Φοίβου τ' ἀμφὶ καὶ αὐτῆς εἵνεκεν Ἥρης
 λίσσομαι, ἧ περίαλλα θεῶν μέμβλεσθε κιόντες,
 χραίσμετέ μοι, ῥύσασθε δυσάμμορον ἀνέρα λύμης,
 μηδὲ μ' ἀκηδείησιν ἀφορμήθητε λιπόντες
 220 αὐτῶς. οὐ γὰρ μοῦνον ἐπ' ὀφθαλμοῖσιν Ἐρινὺς
 λὰξ ἐπέβη, καὶ γῆρας ἀμήρυτον ἐς τέλος ἔλκω:
 πρὸς δ' ἔτι πικρότατον κρέματα κακὸν ἄλλο κακοῖσιν.
 ἄρπυιαι στόματός μοι ἀφαρπάζουσιν ἐδωδῇν
 ἐκποθεν ἀφράστοιο καταΐσσουσai ὄλεθροι.
 225 ἴσχω δ' οὔτινα μῆτιν ἐπίρροθον. ἀλλὰ κε ῥεῖα
 αὐτὸς ἐδὼν λελάθοιμι νόον δόρποιο μεμηλώς,
 ἢ κείνας· ὧδ' αἶψα διήεριοι ποτέονται.
 τυτθὸν δ' ἦν ἄρα δήποτ' ἐδητύος ἄμμι λίπωσιν,
 πνεῖ τόδε μυδαλέον τε καὶ οὐ τλητὸν μένος ὁδμῆς:
 230 οὐ κέ τις οὐδὲ μίνυνθα βροτῶν ἄνσχοιτο πελάσσας,
 οὐδ' εἴ οἱ ἀδάμαντος ἐληγλάμενον κέαρ εἴη.
 ἀλλὰ με πικρὴ δῆτα καὶ ἄατος ἴσχει ἀνάγκη
 μίμνειν καὶ μίμοντα κακῇ ἐνὶ γαστέρι θέσθαι.
 τὰς μὲν θέσφατόν ἐστιν ἐρητῦσαι Βορέας
 235 υἷέας. οὐδ' ὀθνεῖοι ἀλαλκήσουσιν ἐόντες,
 εἰ δὴ ἐγὼν ὁ πρὶν ποτ' ἐπικλυτὸς ἀνδράσι Φινεὺς
 ὄλβω μαντοσύνη τε, πατὴρ δέ με γείνατ' Ἀγῆνωρ:
 τῶν δὲ κασιγνήτην, ὅτ' ἐνὶ Θρήκεσσιν ἄνασσον,
 Κλειοπάτρην ἔδνοισιν ἐμὸν δόμον ἦγον ἄκοιτιν.'

[178] There Phineus, son of Agenor, had his home by the sea, Phineus who above all men endured most bitter woes because of the gift of prophecy which Leto's son had granted him aforetime. And he revered not a whit even Zeus himself, for he foretold unerringly to men his sacred will. Wherefore Zeus sent upon him a lingering old age, and took from his eyes the pleasant light, and suffered him not to have joy of the dainties untold that the dwellers around ever brought to his house, when they came to enquire the will of heaven. But on a sudden, swooping through the clouds, the Harpies with their crooked beaks incessantly snatched the food away from his mouth and hands. And at times not a morsel of food was left, at others but a little, in order that he might live and be tormented. And they poured forth over all a loathsome stench; and no one dared not merely to carry food to his mouth but even to stand at a distance; so foully reeked the remnants of the meal. But straightway when he heard the voice and the tramp of the band he knew that they were the men passing by, at whose coming Zeus' oracle had declared to him that he should have joy of his food. And he rose from his couch, like a lifeless dream, bowed over his staff, and crept to the door on his withered feet, feeling the walls; and as he moved, his limbs trembled for weakness and age; and his

parched skin was caked with dirt, and naught but the skill held his bones together. And he came forth from the hall with wearied knees and sat on the threshold of the courtyard; and a dark stupor covered him, and it seemed that the earth reeled round beneath his feet, and he lay in a strengthless trance, speechless. But when they saw him they gathered round and marvelled. And he at last drew laboured breath from the depths of his chest and spoke among them with prophetic utterance: "Listen, bravest of all the Hellenes, if it be truly ye, whom by a king's ruthless command Jason is leading on the ship Argo in quest of the fleece. It is ye truly. Even yet my soul by its divination knows everything. Thanks I render to thee, O king, son of Leto, plunged in bitter affliction though I be. I beseech you by Zeus the god of suppliants, the sternest foe to sinful men, and for the sake of Phoebus and Hera herself, under whose especial care ye have come hither, help me, save an ill-fated man from misery, and depart not uncaring and leaving me thus as ye see. For not only has the Fury set her foot on my eyes and I drag on to the end a weary old age; but besides my other woes a woe hangs over me the bitterest of all. The Harpies, swooping down from some unseen den of destruction, ever snatch the food from my mouth. And I have no device to aid me. But it were easier, when I long for a meal, to escape my own thoughts than them, so swiftly do they fly through the air. But if haply they do leave me a morsel of food it reeks of decay and the stench is unendurable, nor could any mortal bear to draw near even for a moment, no, not if his heart were wrought of adamant. But necessity, bitter and insatiate, compels me to abide and abiding to put food in my cursed belly. These pests, the oracle declares, the sons of Boreas shall restrain. And no strangers are they that shall ward them off if indeed I am Phineus who was once renowned among men for wealth and the gift of prophecy, and if I am the son of my father Agenor; and, when I ruled among the Thracians, by my bridal gifts I brought home their sister Cleopatra to be my wife."

240 Ἴσκειν Ἀγηνוריίδης: ἀδινὸν δ' ἔλε κῆδος ἕκαστον
 ἡρώων, πέρι δ' αὖτε δύω υἱᾶς Βορέαιο.

δάκρυ δ' ὁμορξαμένω σχεδὸν ἤλυθον, ὧδέ τ' εἶπεν
 Ζήτης, ἀσχαλῶντος ἐλὼν χερὶ χεῖρα γέροντος:

“Ἄ δεῖλ', οὐτὶνὰ φημι σέθεν σμυγερώτερον ἄλλον

245 ἔμμεναι ἀνθρώπων. τί νύ τοι τόσα κήδε' ἀνῆπται;

ἧ ῥα θεοὺς ὀλοῇσι παρήλιτες ἀφραδίησιν

μαντοσύνας δεδαώς; τῷ τοι μέγα μηνιώωσιν;

ἄμμι γε μὴν νόος ἔνδον ἀτύζεται ἱεμένοισιν

χραιομεῖν, εἰ δὴ πρόχῃν γέρας τόδε πάρθετο δαίμων

250 νῶϊν. ἀρίζηλοι γὰρ ἐπιχθονίοισιν ἐνιπαὶ

ἀθανάτων. οὐδ' ἂν πρὶν ἐρητύσαιμεν ἰούσας

Ἀρπυίας, μάλα περ λεληημένοι, ἔστ' ἂν ὁμόσσης,

μη μὲν τοῖό γ' ἔκητι θεοῖς ἀπὸ θυμοῦ ἔσεσθαι.'

[240] So spake Agenor's son; and deep sorrow seized each of the heroes, and especially the two sons of Boreas. And brushing away a tear they drew nigh, and Zetes spake as follows, taking in his own the hand of the grief-worn sire: "Unhappy one, none other of men is more wretched than thou, methinks. Why upon thee is laid the burden of so many sorrows? Hast thou with baneful folly sinned against the gods through thy skill in prophecy? For this are they greatly wroth with thee? Yet our spirit is dismayed within us for all our desire to aid thee, if indeed the god has granted this privilege to us two. For plain to discern to men of earth are the reproofs of the immortals. And we will never check the Harpies when they come, for all our desire, until thou hast sworn that for this we shall not lose the favour of heaven."

ὦς φάτο· τοῦ δ' ἰθὺς κενεὰς ὁ γεραιὸς ἀνέσχευ
255 γλήνας ἀμπετάσας, καὶ ἀμείψατο τοῖσδ' ἐπέεσσιν·
"σίγα· μὴ μοι ταῦτα νόῳ ἐνὶ βάλλεο, τέκνον.
ἴστω Λητοῦς υἱός, ὃ με πρόφρων ἐδίδαξεν
μαντοσύνας· ἴστω δὲ δυσώνυμος, ἥ μ' ἔλαχεν, κῆρ
καὶ τόδ' ἐπ' ὀφθαλμῶν ἀλαδὸν νέφος, οἳ θ' ὑπένερθεν
260 δαίμονες, οἳ μῆδ' ὧδε θανόντι περ εὐμενέοιεν,
ὥς οὐ τις θεόθεν χόλος ἔσσεται εἵνεκ' ἀρωγῆς."

[254] Thus he spake; and towards him the aged sire opened his sightless eyes, and lifted them up and replied with these words: "Be silent, store not up such thoughts in thy heart, my child. Let the son of Leto be my witness, he who of his gracious will taught me the lore of prophecy, and be witness the ill-starred doom which possesses me and this dark cloud upon my eyes, and the gods of the underworld — and may their curse be upon me if I die perjured thus — no wrath from heaven will fall upon you two for your help to me."

τὼ μὲν ἔπειθ' ὄρκοισιν ἀλαλκέμεναι μενέαινον.
αἶψα δὲ κουρότεροι πεπονήατο δαῖτα γέροντι,
λοῖσθιον Ἀρπυίῃσιν ἐλώριον· ἐγγύθι δ' ἄμφω
265 στήσαν, ἵνα ξιφέεσσιν ἐπεσσυμένας ἐλάσειαν.
καὶ δὴ τὰ πρῶτισθ' ὁ γέρων ἔψαυεν ἐδωδῆς·
αἱ δ' ἄφαρ ἡύτ' ἄελλαι ἀδευκέες, ἥ στεροπαὶ ὤς,
ἀπρόφατοι νεφέων ἐξάλμεναι ἐσσεύοντο
κλαγγῇ μαιμῶσαι ἐδητύος· οἳ δ' ἐσιδόντες
270 ἥρωες μεσσηγὺς ἀνίαχον· αἱ δ' ἄμ' αὐτῇ
πάντα καταβρόξασαι ὑπὲρ πόντοιο φέροντο
τῇλε παρέξ· ὁδμὴ δὲ δυσάσχετος αὐθι λέλειπτο.
τάων δ' αὖ κατόπισθε δύο υἱεὺς Βορέαο
φάσαν· ἐπισχόμενοι ὀπίσω θεόν. ἐν γὰρ ἔηκεν
275 Ζεὺς μένος ἀκάματόν σφιν· ἀτὰρ Διὸς οὐ κεν ἐπέσθην
νόσφιν, ἐπεὶ ζεφύροιο παραΐσσεσκον ἀέλλας
αἰέν. ὅτ' ἐς Φινῆα καὶ ἐκ Φινῆος ἴοιεν.

ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἐνὶ κνημοῖσι κύνες δεδαημένοι ἄγρη;
ἢ αἰγας κεραοὺς ἡὲ πρόκας ἰχνεύοντες
280 θείωσιν, τυτθὸν δὲ τιταινόμενοι μετόπισθεν
ἄκρης ἐν γενύεσσι μάτην ἀράβησαν ὀδόντας:
ὥς Ζήτης Κάλαις τε μάλα σχεδὸν αἰσسونτες
τάων ἀκροτάτησιν ἐπέχραον ἥλιθα χερσίν.

καὶ νῦ κε δὴ σφ' ἀέκητι θεῶν διεδηλήσαντο
285 πολλὸν ἐκὰς νήσοισιν ἔπι Πλωτῇσι κιχόντες,
εἰ μὴ ἄρ' ὠκέα Ἴρις ἶδεν, κατὰ δ' αἰθέρος ἄλτο
οὐρανόθεν, καὶ τοῖα παραιφαμένη κατέρυκεν:
'οὐ θέμις, ὦ νιεῖς Βορέω, ξιφέεσσιν ἐλάσσαι
Ἀρπυίας, μέγαλοιο Διὸς κύνας: ὄρκια δ' αὐτῇ
290 δώσω ἐγών, ὥς οὐ οἱ ἔτι χρίμψουσιν ἰοῦσαι.'

[262] Then were those two eager to help him because of the oath. And quickly the younger heroes prepared a feast for the aged man, a last prey for the Harpies; and both stood near him, to smite with the sword those pests when they swooped down. Scarcely had the aged man touched the food when they forthwith, like bitter blasts or flashes of lightning, suddenly darted from the clouds, and swooped down with a yell, fiercely craving for food; and the heroes beheld them and shouted in the midst of their onrush; but they at the cry devoured everything and sped away over the sea after; and an intolerable stench remained. And behind them the two sons of Boreas raising their swords rushed in pursuit. For Zeus imparted to them tireless strength; but without Zeus they could not have followed, for the Harpies used ever to outstrip the blasts of the west wind when they came to Phineus and when they left him. And as when, upon the mountain-side, hounds, cunning in the chase, run in the track of horned goats or deer, and as they strain a little behind gnash their teeth upon the edge of their jaws in vain; so Zetes and Calais rushing very near just grazed the Harpies in vain with their finger-tips. And assuredly they would have torn them to pieces, despite heaven's will, when they had overtaken them far off at the Floating Islands, had not swift Iris seen them and leapt down from the sky from heaven above, and cheeked them with these words: "It is not lawful, O sons of Boreas, to strike with your swords the Harpies, the hounds of mighty Zeus; but I myself will give you a pledge, that hereafter they shall not draw near to Phineus."

ὥς φαμένη λοιβὴν Στυγὸς ὤμοσεν, ἥ τε θεοῖσιν
ρίγιστη πάντεσσιν ὀπιδνοτάτῃ τε τέτυκται,
μὴ μὲν Ἀγηνορίδαο δόμοις ἔτι τάσδε πελάσσαι
εἰσαῦτις Φινῆρος, ἐπεὶ καὶ μόρσιμον ἦεν.

295 οἱ δ' ὄρκω εἷξαντες ὑπέστρεφον ἅψ' ἐπὶ νῆα
σώεσθαι. Στροφάδας δὲ μετακλείουσ' ἄνθρωποι
νήσους τοῖο γ' ἔκητι, πάρος Πλωτὰς καλέοντες.
Ἀρπυιαὶ τ' Ἴρις τε διέτμαγεν. αἱ μὲν ἔδυσαν

κευθμῶνα Κρήτης Μινωίδος· ἡ δ' ἀνόρουσεν
300 Οὐλυμπόνδε, θοῇσι μεταχρονίη πτερύγεσσιν.

[291] With these words she took an oath by the waters of Styx, which to all the gods is most dread and most awful, that the Harpies would never thereafter again approach the home of Phineus, son of Agenor, for so it was fated. And the heroes yielding to the oath, turned back their flight to the ship. And on account of this men call them the Islands of Turning though aforetime they called them the Floating Islands. And the Harpies and Iris parted. They entered their den in Minoan Crete; but she sped up to Olympus, soaring aloft on her swift wings.

τόφρα δ' ἄριστῆς πινόεν περὶ δέρμα γέροντος
πάντῃ φοιβήσαντες ἐπικριδὼν ἱρεύσαντο
μῆλα, τὰ τ' ἐξ Ἀμύκοιο λεηλασίης ἐκόμισσαν.
αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ μέγα δόρπον ἐνὶ μεγάροισιν ἔθεντο,
305 δαίνυνθ' ἑζόμενοι· σὺν δέ σφισι δαίνυτο Φινεὺς
ἄρπαλέως, οἷόν τ' ἐν ὀνείρασι θυμὸν ἰαίνων.
ἔνθα δ', ἐπεὶ δόρποιο κορέσσαντ' ἡδὲ ποτῆτος,
παννύχιοι Βορέω μένον υἱέας ἐγρήσσοντες.
αὐτὸς δ' ἐν μέσσοισι παρ' ἐσχάρῃ ἦστο γεραῖος
310 πείρατα ναυτιλίας ἐνέπων ἄνυσίν τε κελεύθου·
ῥ' κλῦτέ νυν. οὐ μὲν πάντα πέλει θέμις ὕμμι δαῖναι
ἄτρεκές· ὅσσα δ' ὄρωρε θεοῖς φίλον, οὐκ ἐπικεύσω.
ἁσάμην καὶ πρόσθε Διὸς νόον ἀφραδίησιν
χρεῖων ἐξεῖς τε καὶ ἐς τέλος. ὧδε γὰρ αὐτὸς
315 βούλεται ἀνθρώποις ἐπιδευέα θέσφατα φαίνειν

[301] Meanwhile the chiefs carefully cleansed the old man's squalid skin and with due selection sacrificed sheep which they had borne away from the spoil of Amycus. And when they had laid a huge supper in the hall, they sat down and feasted, and with them feasted Phineus ravenously, delighting his soul, as in a dream. And there, when they had taken their fill of food and drink, they kept awake all night waiting for the sons of Boreas. And the aged sire himself sat in the midst, near the hearth, telling of the end of their voyage and the completion of their journey: "Listen then. Not everything is it lawful for you to know clearly; but whatever is heaven's will, I will not hide. I was infatuated aforetime, when in my folly I declared the will of Zeus in order and to the end. For he himself wishes to deliver to men the utterances of the prophetic art incomplete, in order that they may still have some need to know the will of heaven.

μαντοσύνης, ἵνα καὶ τι θεῶν χατέωσι νόοιο.
πέτρας μὲν ἀμπρωτον, ἀφορμηθέντες ἐμεῖο,
Κυανέας ὄψεσθε δῶα ἄλδος ἐν ζυνοχῆσιν,
τάων οὐτινά φημι διαμπερὲς ἐξαλέασθαι.

320 οὐ γάρ τε ρίζησιν ἐρήρηνται νεάτησιν,
 ἀλλὰ θαμὰ ξυνίασιν ἐναντία ἀλλήλησιν
 εἰς ἓν, ὕπερθε δὲ πολλὸν ἄλως κορθύεται ὕδωρ
 βρασόμενον· στρηνῆς δὲ περὶ στυφελῇ βρέμει ἄκτῃ.
 τῷ νῦν ἡμετέρησι παραιφασίησι πίθεσθε,
 325 εἰ ἐτεὸν πυκινῷ τε νόφ μακάρων τ' ἀλέγοντες
 πεῖρετε· μῆδ' αὐτῶς αὐτάγρετον οἶτον ὀλησθε
 ἀφραδέως, ἣ θύνετ' ἐπισπόμενοι νεότητι.
 οἶωνῷ δὴ πρόσθε πελειάδι πειρήσασθαι
 νηὸς ἄπο προμεθέντες ἐφίεμεν. ἦν δὲ δι' αὐτῶν
 330 πετράων πόντονδε σόη περυγέσσι δίηται,
 μηκέτι δὴν μῆδ' αὐτοὶ ἐρητύεσθε κελεύθου,
 ἀλλ' εὖ καρτύναντες εἰς ἐνὶ χερσὶν ἐρετμὰ
 τέμνεθ' ἄλως στενωπόν· ἐπεὶ φάος οὐ νύ τι τόσσον
 ἔσσετ' ἐν εὐχολῇσιν, ὅσον τ' ἐνὶ κάρτει χειρῶν.
 335 τῷ καὶ τᾶλλα μεθέντες ὀνήιστον πονέεσθαι
 θαρσαλέως· πρὶν δ' οὔτι θεοὺς λίσσεσθαι ἐρύκω.
 εἰ δέ κεν ἀντικρὺ πταμένη μεσσηγὺς ὀληται,
 ἄψορροι στέλλεσθαι ἐπεὶ πολὺ βέλτερον εἶξαι
 ἀθανάτοισι. οὐ γάρ κε κακὸν μόνον ἐξαλάισθε
 340 πετράων, οὐδ' εἴ κε σιδηρεῖη πέλοι Λῆργω.

[316] “First of all, after leaving me, ye will see the twin Cyanean rocks where the two seas meet. No one, I ween, has won his escape between them. For they are not firmly fixed with roots beneath, but constantly clash against one another to one point, and above a huge mass of salt water rises in a crest, boiling up, and loudly dashes upon the hard beach. Wherefore now obey my counsel, if indeed with prudent mind and reverencing the blessed gods ye pursue your way; and perish not foolishly by a self-sought death, or rush on following the guidance of youth. First entrust the attempt to a dove when ye have sent her forth from the ship. And if she escapes safe with her wings between the rocks to the open sea, then no more do ye refrain from the path, but grip your oars well in your hands and cleave the sea’s narrow strait, for the light of safety will be not so much in prayer as in strength of hands. Wherefore let all else go and labour boldly with might and main, but ere then implore the gods as ye will, I forbid you not. But if she flies onward and perishes midway, then do ye turn back; for it is better to yield to the immortals. For ye could not escape an evil doom from the rocks, not even if Argo were of iron.

ὦ μέλαιοι, μὴ τλῆτε παρὲς ἐμὰ θέσφατα βῆναι,
 εἰ καὶ με τρις τόσσον ὀίεσθ' Οὐρανίδησιν,
 ὅσον ἀνάρσιός εἰμι, καὶ εἰ πλεῖον στυγέεσθαι·
 μὴ τλῆτ' οἶωνοῖο πάρεξ ἔτι νηὶ περιῆσαι.
 345 καὶ τὰ μὲν ὧς κε πέλη, τὼς ἔσσεται. ἦν δὲ φύγητε

σύνδρομα πετρῶων ἄσκηθές ἔνδοθι Πόντου,
αὐτίκα Βιθυνῶν ἐπὶ δεξιὰ γαῖαν ἔχοντες
πλώετε ῥηγμῖνας πεφυλαγμένοι, εἰσόκεν αὖτε
Ῥήβαν ὠκυρόην ποταμὸν ἄκρην τε Μέλαιναν
350 γνάμψαντες νήσου Θυνηίδος ὄρμον ἵκησθε.
κεῖθεν δ' οὐ μάλα πολὺ διέξ ἄλὸς ἀντιπέραιαν
γῆν Μαριανδυνῶν ἐπικέλσετε νοστήσαντες.
ἔνθα μὲν εἰς Αἶδαο καταβᾶτις ἐστὶ κέλευθος,
ἄκρη τε προβλῆς Ἀχερουσιᾶς ὑψόθι τείνει,
355 δινῆεις τ' Ἀχέρων αὐτὴν διὰ νειόθι τέμνων
ἄκρην ἐκ μεγάλης προχοᾶς ἵησι φάραγος.
ἀγχίμολον δ' ἐπὶ τῇ πολέας παρανεῖσθε κολωνοῦς
Παφλαγόνων, τοῖσιν τ' Ἐνετήιος ἐμβασίλευσεν
πρῶτα Πέλοψ, τοῦ καὶ περ ἄφ' αἵματος εὐχετόωνται.

[341] “O hapless ones, dare not to transgress my divine warning, even though ye think that I am thrice as much hated by the sons of heaven as I am, and even more than thrice; dare not to sail further with your ship in despite of the omen. And as these things will fall, so shall they fall. But if ye shun the clashing rocks and come scatheless inside Pontus, straightway keep the land of the Bithynians on your right and sail on, and beware of the breakers, until ye round the swift river Rhebas and the black beach, and reach the harbour of the Isle of Thynias. Thence ye must turn back a little space through the sea and beach your ship on the land of the Mariandyni lying opposite. Here is a downward path to the abode of Hades, and the headland of Acherusia stretches aloft, and eddying Acheron cleaves its way at the bottom, even through the headland, and sends its waters forth from a huge ravine. And near it ye will sail past many hills of the Paphlagonians, over whom at the first Eneteian Pelops reigned, and of his blood they boast themselves to be.

360 ἔστι δέ τις ἄκρη Ἑλίκης κατεναντίον Ἄρκτου,
πάντοθεν ἡλίβατος, καὶ μιν καλέουσι Κάραμβιν,
τῆς καὶ ὑπὲρ βορέαο περισχίζονται ἄλλαι:
ὧδε μάλ' ἄμ πέλαγος τετραμμένη αἰθέρι κύρει.
τήνδε περιγνάμψαντι πολὺς παρακέκλιται: ἤδη
365 αἰγιαλός: πολέος δ' ἐπὶ πείρασιν Αἰγιαλοῖο
ἀκτῇ ἐπὶ προβλῇτι ῥοαὶ Ἄλυσ ποταμοῖο
δεινὸν ἐρεῦγονται: μετὰ τὸν δ' ἀγχίροος Ἴρις
μειότερος λευκῇσιν ἐλίσσεται εἰς ἄλα δίναις.
κεῖθεν δὲ προτέρωσε μέγας καὶ ὑπείροχος ἀγκὼν
370 ἐξανέχει γαίης: ἐπὶ δὲ στόμα Θεμισκύρειον ὑπ' ἄκρην
μύρεται, εὐρείης διαειμένος ἡπείροιο.
ἔνθα δὲ Δοίαντος πεδίον, σχεδόνθεν δὲ πόλεις
τρισαῖ Αἰμαζονίδων, μετὰ τε σμυγερώτατοι ἀνδρῶν

375 τρηγεῖαν Χάλυβες καὶ ἀτειρέα γαῖαν ἔχουσιν,
 ἐργατῖναι· τοὶ δ' ἄμφι σιδήρεα ἔργα μέλονται.
 ἄγχι δὲ φαιετάουσι πολύρρηγες Τιβαρηνοὶ
 Ζηγὸς Ἐυζεῖνοιο Γενηταῖν ὑπὲρ ἄκρην.
 τῇ δ' ἐπὶ Μοσσύνοικοι ὁμοῦριοι ὕληεσσιν
 380 ἐξεῖς ἥπειρον, ὑπωρείας τε νέμονται,
 δουρατέοις πύργοισιν ἐν οἰκίᾳ τεκτῆναντες
 κάλινα καὶ πύργους εὐπηγέας, οὓς καλέουσιν
 μόσσυνας· καὶ δ' αὐτοὶ ἐπώνυμοι ἔνθεν ἔασιν.
 τοὺς παραμειβόμενοι λισσῇ ἐπικέλσετε νήσῳ,
 μήτι παντοίῃ μέγ' ἀναιδέας ἐξελάσαντες
 οἰωνούς, οἳ δῆθεν ἀπειρέσιοι ἐρέπουσιν
 385 νῆσον ἐρημαῖν. τῇ μὲν τ' ἐνὶ νηὸν Ἄρηος
 λαῖνον ποίησαν Ἀμαζονίδων βασιλειαί
 Ὀτρηρὴ τε καὶ Ἀντιόπη, ὅποτε στρατόωντο.
 ἔνθα γὰρ ὕμιν ὄνειρα ἀδευκέος ἐξ ἄλῃς εἴσιν
 ἄρρητον· τῷ καὶ τε φίλα φρονέων ἀγορεύω
 390 ἰσχύμεν. ἀλλὰ τί με πάλιν χρεῖω ἀλιτέσθαι
 μαντοσύνη τὰ ἕκαστα διηνεκὲς ἐξενέποντα;
 νήσου δὲ προτέρωσε καὶ ἠπείροιο περαίης
 φέρβονται Φίλυρες· Φιλύρων δ' ἐφύπερθεν ἔασιν
 Μάκρωνες· μετὰ δ' αὖ περιώσια φῦλα Βεχείρων.
 395 ἐξεῖς δὲ Σάπειρες ἐπὶ σφίσι ναιετάουσιν·
 Βύζηρες δ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ὁμώλακες, ὧν ὕπερ ἤδη
 αὐτοὶ Κόλχοι ἔχονται ἀρήιοι. ἀλλ' ἐνὶ νηὶ
 πείρεθ', ἕως μυχάτῃ κεν ἐνιχρίμψῃτε θαλάσση.
 ἔνθα δ' ἐπ' ἠπείροιο Κυταΐδος, ἥδ' Ἀμαραντῶν
 400 τηλόθεν ἐξ ὀρέων πεδίοιο τε Κιρκαιοῖο
 Φᾶσις δινήεις εὐρὺν ρόον εἰς ἅλα βάλλει.
 κείνου νῆ' ἐλάοντες ἐπὶ προχοᾷς ποταμοῖο
 πύργους εἰσόψεσθε Κυταΐδος Αἰήταο,
 ἄλσος τε σκίοειν Ἄρεος, τόθι κῶας ἐπ' ἄκρης
 405 πεπτάμενον φηγοῖο δράκων, τέρας αἰνὸν ἰδέσθαι,
 ἀμφὶς ὀπιπεύει δεδοκημένος· οὐδέ οἱ ἦμαρ,
 οὐ κνέφας ἥδυμος ὕπνος ἀναιδέα δάμναται ὅσσε.'

[360] "Now there is a headland opposite Helice the Bear, steep on all sides, and they call it Carambis, about whose crests the blasts of the north wind are sundered. So high in the air does it rise turned towards the sea. And when ye have rounded it broad Aegialus stretches before you; and at the end of broad Aegialus, at a jutting point of coast, the waters of the river Halys pour forth with a terrible roar; and after it his flowing near, but smaller in stream, rolls into the sea with white eddies. Onward from thence the bend of a huge and towering cape reaches out from the land, next Thermodon at its mouth flows into a quiet bay at the Themiscyreian headland, after wandering through a

broad continent. And here is the plain of Doeas, and near are the three cities of the Amazons, and after them the Chalybes, most wretched of men, possess a soil rugged and unyielding sons of toil, they busy themselves with working iron. And near them dwell the Tibareni, rich in sheep, beyond the Genetaean headland of Zeus, lord of hospitality. And bordering on it the Mossynoeci next in order inhabit the well-wooded mainland and the parts beneath the mountains, who have built in towers made from trees their wooden homes and well-fitted chambers, which they call Mossynes, and the people themselves take their name from them. After passing them ye must beach your ship upon a smooth island, when ye have driven away with all manner of skill the ravening birds, which in countless numbers haunt the desert island. In it the Queens of the Amazons, Otrere and Antiope, built a stone temple of Ares what time they went forth to war. Now here an unspeakable help will come to you from the bitter sea; wherefore with kindly intent I bid you stay. But what need is there that I should sin yet again declaring everything to the end by my prophetic art? And beyond the island and opposite mainland dwell the Philyres: and above the Philyres are the Macrones, and after them the vast tribes of the Becheiri. And next in order to them dwell the Sapeires, and the Byzeres have the lands adjoining to them, and beyond them at last live the warlike Colchians themselves. But speed on in your ship, till ye touch the inmost bourne of the sea. And here at the Cytaean mainland and from the Amarantine mountains far away and the Circaean plain, eddying Phasis rolls his broad stream to the sea. Guide your ship to the mouth of that river and ye shall behold the towers of Cytaean Aeetes and the shady grove of Ares, where a dragon, a monster terrible to behold, ever glares around, keeping watch over the fleece that is spread upon the top of an oak; neither by day nor by night does sweet sleep subdue his restless eyes.”

ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη: τοὺς δ' εἴθαρ ἔλεν δέος εἰσαῖοντας.
 δὴν δ' ἔσαν ἀμφασίῃ βεβολημένοι: ὃπὲ δ' ἔειπεν
 410 ἦρως Αἴσονος υἱὸς ἀμηχανέων κακότητι:
 ‘ὦ γέρον, ἦδη μὲν τε δίίκεο πείρατ' ἀέθλων
 ναυτιλίας καὶ τέκμαρ, ὅτῳ στυγεράς διὰ πέτρας
 πειθόμενοι Πόντονδε περήσομεν: εἰ δέ κεν αὖτις
 τάσδ' ἡμῖν προφυγοῦσιν ἐς Ἑλλάδα νόστος ὀπίσσω
 415 ἔσσεται, ἀσπαστῶς κε παρὰ σέο καὶ τὸ δαεῖν.
 πῶς ἔρδω, πῶς αὖτε τόσην ἄλδος εἴμι κέλευθον,
 νῆις ἐὼν ἐτάροις ἅμα νήσιν; αἶα δὲ Κολχίς
 Πόντου καὶ γαίης ἐπικέκλιται ἐσχατιῇσιν.’

[408] Thus he spake, and straightway fear seized them as they heard. And for a long while they were struck with silence; till at last the hero, son of Aeson, spake, sore dismayed at their evil plight: “O aged sire, now hast thou come to the end of the toils of our sea-journeying and hast told us the token, trusting to which we shall make our way to Pontus through the hateful rocks; but

whether, when we have escaped them, we shall have a return back again to Hellas, this too would we gladly learn from thee. What shall I do, how shall I go over again such a long path through the sea, unskilled as I am, with unskilled comrades? And Colchian Aea lies at the edge of Pontus and of the world.”

ὥς φάτο· τὸν δ' ὁ γεραιὸς ἀμειβόμενος προσέειπεν:
420 ‘ὦ τέκος, εὖτ' ἂν πρῶτα φύγῃς ὀλοὰς διὰ πέτρας,
θάρσει· ἐπεὶ δαίμων ἕτερον πλόνον ἡγεμονεύσει
ἐξ Αἴης· μετὰ δ' Αἴαν ἅλις πομπῆς ἔσονται.
ἀλλὰ, φίλοι, φράζεσθε θεᾶς δολόεσσαν ἄρωγῇν
Κύπριδος· ἐκ γὰρ τῆς κλυτὰ πείρατα κεῖται ἀέθλων.
425 καὶ δέ με μηκέτι τῶνδε περαιτέρω ἐξερέεσθε.’

[419] Thus he spake, and him the aged sire addressed in reply: “O son, when once thou hast escaped through the deadly rocks, fear not; for a deity will be the guide from Aea by another track; and to Aea there will be guides enough. But, my friends, take thought of the artful aid of the Cyprian goddess. For on her depends the glorious issue of your venture. And further than this ask me not.”

ὥς φάτ' Ἀγηνορίδης· ἐπὶ δὲ σχεδὸν υἷε δοιῷ
Θρηκίου Βορέας κατ' αἰθέρος αἶξαντε
οὐδῶ ἔπι κραιπνοὺς ἔβαλον πόδας· οἱ δ' ἀνόρουσαν
ἐξ ἐδέων ἥρωες, ὅπως παρεόντας ἴδοντο.
430 Ζήτης δ' ἱεμένοισιν, ἔτ' ἄσπετον ἐκ καμάτοιο
ἄσθμ' ἀναφυσίων, μετεφώνεεν, ὅσσον ἄπωθεν
ἤλασαν, ἥδ' ὥς Ἴρις ἐρύκακε τάσδε δαΐζαι,
ὄρκια τ' εὐμένεουσα θεὰ πόρεν, αἱ δ' ὑπέδυσαν
δείματι Δικταίης περιώσιον ἄντρον ἐρίπνης.
435 γηθόσυνοι δὴ πειτα δόμοις ἐνὶ πάντες ἐταῖροι
αὐτός τ' ἀγγελίῃ Φινεὺς πέλεν. ὦκα δὲ τόνγε
Αἰσονίδης περιπολλὸν ἐυφρονέων προσέειπεν:
‘ἦ ἄρα δὴ τις ἔην, Φινεῦ, θεός, ὃς σέθεν ἄτης
κῆδετο λευγαλέης, καὶ δ' ἡμέας αὖθι πέλασσεν
440 τηλόθεν, ὄφρα τοι νῆες ἀμύνειαν Βορέας:
εἰ δὲ καὶ ὀφθαλμοῖσι φόως πόροι ἦ τ' ἂν οἶω
γηθήσιν, ὅσον εἶπερ ὑπότροπος οἴκαδ' ἰκοίμην.’

[426] Thus spake Agenor's son, and close at hand the twin sons of Thracian Boreas came darting from the sky and set their swift feet upon the threshold; and the heroes rose up from their seats when they saw them present. And Zetes, still drawing hard breath after his toil, spake among the eager listeners, telling them how far they had driven the Harpies and how he prevented their slaying them, and how the goddess of her grace gave them pledges, and how those others in fear plunged into the vast cave of the Dictaeon cliff. Then in

the mansion all their comrades were joyful at the tidings and so was Phineus himself. And quickly Aeson's son, with good will exceeding, addressed him: "Assuredly there was then, Phineus, some god who cared for thy bitter woe, and brought us hither from afar, that the sons of Boreas might aid thee; and if too he should bring sight to thine eyes, verily I should rejoice, methinks, as much as if I were on my homeward way."

ὧς ἔφατ'· αὐτὰρ ὁ τόνγε κατηφήςας προσέειπεν·
'Αἰσονίδη, τὸ μὲν οὐ παλινάγρετον, οὐδέ τι μῆχος
445 ἔστ' ὀπίσω· κενεαὶ γὰρ ὑποσμύχονται ὀπωπαί.
ἀντὶ δὲ τοῦ θανάτῳ μοι ἄφαρ θεὸς ἐγγυαλίζαι,
καὶ τε θανὼν πάσῃσι μετέσσομαι ἀγλαΐῃσιν.'

[443] Thus he spake, but Phineus replied to him with downcast look: "Son of Aeson, that is past recall, nor is there any remedy hereafter, for blasted are my sightless eyes. But instead of that, may the god grant me death at once, and after death I shall take my share in perfect bliss."

ὧς τῶγ' ἀλλήλοισι παραβλήδην ἀγόρευον.
αὐτίκα δ' οὐ μετὰ δηρὸν ἀμειβομένων ἐφάνθη
450 Ἑριγενής· τὸν δ' ἀμφὶ περικτῖται ἡγερέθοντο
ἄνδρες, οἳ καὶ πρόσθεν ἐπ' ἥματι κεῖσε θάμιζον,
αἰὲν ὁμῶς φορέοντες ἑῆς ἀπὸ μοῖραν ἐδωδῆς.
τοῖς ὁ γέρων πάντεσσιν, ὅτις καὶ ἀφαιρὸς ἴκοιτο,
ἔχραεν ἐνδυκέως, πολέων δ' ἀπὸ πῆματ' ἔλυσεν
455 μαντοσύνη· τῷ καὶ μιν ἐποιχόμενοι κομέεσκον.
σὺν τοῖσιν δ' ἵκανε Παραΐβιος, ὃς ῥά οἱ ἦεν
φίλτατος· ἀσπᾶσιος δὲ· δόμοις ἔνι τούσγ' ἐνόησεν.
πρὶν γὰρ δὴ νύ ποτ' αὐτὸς ἀριστήων στόλον ἀνδρῶν
Ἑλλάδος ἐξανιόντα μετὰ πτόλιν Αἰήταο
460 πείσματ' ἀνάψασθαι μυθήσατο Θυνίδι γαίῃ,
οἳ τέ οἱ Ἀρπυΐας Διόθεν σχήσουσιν ἰούσας.
τοὺς μὲν ἔπειτ' ἐπέεσσιν ἀρεσσάμενος πυκννοῖσιν
πέμφ' ὁ γέρων· οἷον δὲ Παραΐβιον αὐτόθι μῖμνεν
κέκλετ' ἀριστήεσσι σὺν ἀνδράσιν· αἶψα δὲ τόνγε
465 σφωιτέρων δίων ὅτις ἔζοχος, εἰς ἔ κομίσσαι

[448] Then they two returned answering speech, each to other, and soon in the midst of their converse early dawn appeared; and round Phineus were gathered the neighbours who used to come thither aforetime day by day and constantly bring a portion of their food. To all alike, however poor he was that came, the aged man gave his oracles with good will, and freed many from their woes by his prophetic art; wherefore they visited and tended him. And with them came Paraebius, who was dearest to him, and gladly did he perceive these strangers in the house. For long ere now the seer himself had said that a band of chieftains, faring from Hellas to the city of Aceres, would

make fast their hawsers to the Thynian land, and by Zeus' will would check the approach of the Harpies. The rest the old man pleased with words of wisdom and let them go; Paraebius only he bade remain there with the chiefs; and straightway he sent him and bade him bring back the choicest of his sheep.

ἦκεν ἐποτρύνας. τοῦ δ' ἐκ μεγάροιο κιόντος
μειλιχίως ἐρέτησιν ὀμηγερέεσσι μετηύδα·
ᾧ φίλοι, οὐκ ἄρα πάντες ὑπέρβιοι ἄνδρες ἔασιν,
οὐδ' εὐεργεσίης ἀμνήμονες. ὥς καὶ ὁδ' ἀνήρ
470 τοῖος ἐὼν δεῦρ' ἦλθεν, ἐὼν μόρον ὄφρα δαείη.
εὔτε γὰρ οὖν ὥς πλεῖστα κάμοι καὶ πλεῖστα μογήσαι,
δὴ τότε μιν περιπολλὸν ἐπασσυντέρη βίότοιο
χρησμοσύνη τρύχεσκεν· ἐπ' ἡματι δ' ἦμαρ ὁρώρει
κύντερον, οὐδέ τις ἦεν ἀνάπνευσις μογέοντι.
475 ἀλλ' ὅγε πατὴρ ἐοῖο κακὴν τίνεσκεν ἀμοιβὴν
ἀμπλακίης. ὁ γὰρ οἶος ἐν οὖρεσι δένδρεα τέμνων
δὴ ποθ' ἀμαδρυάδος νύμφης ἀθέριξε λιτάων,
ἣ μιν ὀδυρομένη ἀδινῶ μείλίσσετο μύθῳ,
μὴ ταμέειν πρέμνον δρυὸς ἥλικος, ἣ ἔπι πουλὺν
480 αἰῶνα τρίβεσκε διηνεκές· αὐτὰρ ὁ τήνγε
ἀφραδέως ἔτμηξεν ἀγηνορίῃ νεότητος.
τῷ δ' ἄρα νηκερδῇ νύμφη πόρεν οἶτον ὀπίσσω
αὐτῷ καὶ τεκέεσσιν. ἔγωγε μὲν, εὔτ' ἀφίκανεν,
ἀμπλακίην ἐγνων· βωμὸν δ' ἐκέλευσα καμόντα
485 Θυνιάδος νύμφης, λωφῆια ῥέξαι ἐπ' αὐτῷ
ἱερά, πατρώην αἰτεύμενον αἶσαν ἀλύξαι.
ἔνθ' ἐπεὶ ἔκφυγε κῆρα θεήλατον, οὐποτ' ἐμεῖο
ἐκλάθεται, οὐδ' ἀθέρισε· μόλις δ' ἀέκοντα θύραζε
πέμπω, ἐπεὶ μέμονέν γε παρέμμεναι ἀσχαλῶντι.'

[466] And when he had left the hall Phineus spake gently amid the throng of oarsmen: "O my friends, not all men are arrogant, it seems, nor unmindful of benefits. Even as this man, loyal as he is, came hither to learn his fate. For when he laboured the most and toiled the most, then the needs of life, ever growing more and more, would waste him, and day after day ever dawned more wretched, nor was there any respite to his toil. But he was paying the sad penalty of his father's sin. For he when alone on the mountains, felling trees, once slighted the prayers of a Hamadryad, who wept and sought to soften him with plaintive words, not to cut down the stump of an oak tree coeval with herself, wherein for a long time she had lived continually; but he in the arrogance of youth recklessly cut it down. So to him the nymph thereafter made her death a curse, to him and to his children. I indeed knew of the sin when he came; and I bid him build an altar to the Thynian nymph, and offer on it an atoning sacrifice, with prayer to escape his father's fate. Here,

ever since he escaped the god-sent doom, never has he forgotten or neglected me; but sorely and against his will do I send him from my doors, so eager is he to remain with me in my affliction.”

490 ὥς φάτ’ Ἀγηνορίδης· ὁ δ’ ἐπισχεδὼν αὐτίκα δοῖω
ἤλυθ’ ἄγων ποίμνηθεν οἷς. ἀνὰ δ’ ἵστατ’ Ἴησων,
ἄν δὲ Βορήιοι νῆες ἐφημοσύνησι γέροντος.
ᾧκα δὲ κεκλόμενοι μαντήιον Ἀπόλλωνα
ῥέζον ἐπ’ ἐσχαρόφιν νέον ἡματος ἀνομένοιο.
495 κουρότεροι δ’ ἐτάρων μενοεικέα δαῖτ’ ἀλέγουνον.
ἔνθ’ εὖ δαισάμενοι, τοὶ μὲν παρὰ πείσμασι νηὸς,
τοὶ δ’ αὐτοῦ κατὰ δώματ’ ὁλλέες ἐνάζοντο.
ἦρι δ’ ἐτήσιαι αὔραι ἐπέχραον, αἱ τ’ ἀνὰ πᾶσαν
γαῖαν ὁμῶς τοιῇδε Διὸς πνεῖουσιν ἄρωγῃ.

[490] Thus spake Agenor’s son; and his friend straightway came near leading two sheep from the flock. And up rose Jason and up rose the sons of Boreas at the bidding of the aged sire . And quickly they called upon Apollo, lord of prophecy, and offered sacrifice upon the health as the day was just sinking. And the younger comrades made ready a feast to their hearts’ desire. Thereupon having well feasted they turned themselves to rest, some near the ship’s hawsers, others in groups throughout the mansion. And at dawn the Etesian winds blew strongly, which by the command of Zeus blow over every land equally.

500 Κυρήνη πέφαταί τις ἔλος πάρα Πηνειοῖο
μῆλα νέμειν προτέροισι παρ’ ἀνδράσιν· εὖαδε γάρ οἱ
παρθενίη καὶ λέκτρον ἀκήρατον. αὐτὰρ Ἀπόλλων
τήνγ’ ἀνερεψάμενος ποταμῷ ἐπὶ ποιμαίνουσιν
τηλόθεν Αἰμονίης, χθονίης παρακάτθετο νύμφαις,
505 αἱ Λιβύην ἐνέμοντο παρὰ Μυρτώσιον αἴπος.
ἔνθα δ’ Ἀρισταῖον Φοῖβω τέκεν, ὃν καλέουσιν
Ἀγρέα καὶ Νόμιον πολυλήιοι Αἰμονιῆς.
τὴν μὲν γὰρ φιλότῃ θεὸς ποιήσατο νύμφην
αὐτοῦ μακραίωνα καὶ ἀγρότιν· νῆα δ’ ἔνεικεν
510 νηπίαχον Χείρωνος ὑπ’ ἄντροισιν κομέεσθαι.
τῷ καὶ ἀεξηθέντι θεαὶ γάμον ἐμνήστευσαν
Μοῦσαι, ἄκεστορίην τε θεοπροπίας τ’ ἐδίδαξαν·
καὶ μιν ἑὼν μῆλων θέσαν ἦρανον, ὅσσ’ ἐνέμοντο
ἄμ πεδῖον Φθίης Ἀθαμάντιον ἀμφὶ τ’ ἐρυμνὴν
515 Ὅθρυν καὶ ποταμοῦ ἱερὸν ῥόον Ἀπιδανοῖο.
ἦμος δ’ οὐρανόθεν Μινωίδας ἔφλεγε νήσους
Σείριος, οὐδ’ ἐπὶ δηρὸν ἔην ἄκος ἐνναέτησιν,
τῆμος τόνγ’ ἐκάλεσσαν ἐφημοσύναις Ἑκάτοιο
λοιμοῦ ἀλεξητῆρα. λίπεν δ’ ὄγε πατρὸς ἐφετμῇ

520 Φθίην, ἐν δὲ Κέφ κατενάσσατο, λαὸν ἀγείρας
 Παρράσιον, τοίπερ τε Λυκάονός εἰσι γενέθλης,
 καὶ βωμὸν ποίησε μέγαν Διὸς Ἰκμαίοιο,
 ἱερά τ' εὖ ἔρρεξεν ἐν οὔρεσιν ἀστέρι κείνῳ
 Σειρίῳ αὐτῷ τε Κρονίδῃ Διί. τοῖο δ' ἔκητι
 525 γαῖαν ἐπιψύχουσιν ἐτήσιαι ἐκ Διὸς αὔραι
 ἤματα τεσσαράκοντα: Κέφ δ' ἔτι νῦν ἱερῆς
 ἀντολέων προπάροιθε Κυνὸς ῥέζουσι θυγλᾶς.

[500] Cyrene, the tale goes, once tended sheep along the marsh-meadow of Peneus among men of old time; for dear to her were maidenhood and a couch unstained. But, as she guarded her flock by the river, Apollo carried her off far from Haemonia and placed her among the nymphs of the land, who dwelt in Libya near the Myrtosian height. And here to Phoebus she bore Aristaeus whom the Haemonians, rich in corn-land, call "Hunter" and "Shepherd". Her, of his love, the god made a nymph there, of long life and a huntress, and his son he brought while still an infant to be nurtured in the cave of Cheiron. And to him when he grew to manhood the Muses gave a bride, and taught him the arts of healing and of prophecy; and they made him the keeper of their sheep, of all that grazed on the Athamantian plain of Phthia and round steep Othrys and the sacred stream of the river Apidanus. But when from heaven Sirius scorched the Minoan Isles, and for long there was no respite for the inhabitants, then by the injunction of the Far-Darter they summoned Aristaeus to ward off the pestilence. And by his father's command he left Phthia and made his home in Ceos, and gathered together the Parrhasian people who are of the lineage of Lycaon, and he built a great altar to Zeus Icmæus, and duly offered sacrifices upon the mountains to that star Sirius, and to Zeus son of Cronos himself. And on this account it is that Etesian winds from Zeus cool the land for forty days, and in Ceos even now the priests offer sacrifices before the rising of the Dog-star.

καὶ τὰ μὲν ὧς ὑδέονται: ἀριστῆες δὲ καταῦθι
 μῖμον ἐρυκόμενοι: ξεινῆια δ' ἄσπετα Θυνοὶ
 530 πᾶν ἡμᾶρ Φινῇ χαριζόμενοι προΐαλλον.
 ἐκ δὲ τόθεν μακάρεσσι δωδέκα δομήσαντες
 βωμὸν ἀλὸς ῥηγμῖνι πέρην καὶ ἐφ' ἱερά θέντες,
 νῆα θοὴν εἴσβαινον ἐρεσσέμεν, οὐδὲ πελείης
 τρήρωνος λήθοντο μετὰ σφίσιν: ἀλλ' ἄρα τήνγε
 535 δείματι πεπτηῦιαν ἐῖ φέρε χειρὶ μεμαρπὺς
 Εὐφημος, γαίης δ' ἀπὸ διπλόα πείσματ' ἔλυσαν.

[528] So the tale is told, but the chieftains stayed there by constraint, and every day the Thynians, doing pleasure to Phineus, sent them gifts beyond measure. And afterwards they raised an altar to the blessed twelve on the sea-beach opposite and laid offerings thereon and then entered their swift ship to row,

nor did they forget to bear with them a trembling dove; but Euphemus seized her and brought her all quivering with fear, and they loosed the twin hawsers from the land.

οὐδ' ἄρ' Ἀθηναίην προτέρω λάθον ὀρμηθέντες:
αὐτίκα δ' ἐσσυμένως νεφέλης ἐπιβᾶσα πόδεσσιν
κούφης, ἣ κε φέροι μιν ἄφαρ βριαρὴν περ ἐοῦσαν,
540 σεύατ' ἵμεν πόντονδε, φίλα φρονέουσ' ἐρέτησιν.
ὥς δ' ὅτε τις πάτρηθεν ἀλώμενος, οἷά τε πολλὰ
πλαζόμεθ' ἄνθρωποι τετληότες, οὐδέ τις αἶα
τηλουρός, πᾶσαι δὲ κατόνσιοί εἰσι κέλευθοι,
σφωιτέρους δ' ἐνόησε δόμους, ἄμυδις δὲ κέλευθος
545 ὕγρῃ τε τραφερῇ τ' ἰνδάλλεται, ἄλλοτε δ' ἄλλη
ὀξέα πορφύρων ἐπιμαίεται ὀφθαλμοῖσιν:
ὥς ἄρα καρπαλίμως κούρη Διὸς αἶξασα
θῆκεν ἐπ' ἀξείνοιο πόδας Θυνηίδος ἀκτῆς.

[537] Nor did they start unmarked by Athena, but straightway swiftly she set her feet on a light cloud, which would waft her on, mighty though she was, and she swept on to the sea with friendly thoughts to the oarsmen. And as when one roves far from his native land, as we men often wander with enduring heart, nor is any land too distant but all ways are clear to his view, and he sees in mind his own home, and at once the way over sea and land seems plain, and swiftly thinking, now this way, now that, he strains with eager eyes; so swiftly the daughter of Zeus darted down and set her foot on the cheerless shore of Thynia.

οἱ δ' ὅτε δὴ σκολιοῖο πόρου στενωπὸν ἵκοντο
550 τρηχεῖης σπλάδεσσιν ἐεργμένον ἀμφοτέρωθεν,
δινῆεις δ' ὑπένερθεν ἀνακλύζεσκεν ἰοῦσαν
νῆα ῥόος, πολλὸν δὲ φόβῳ προτέρωσε νέοντο,
ἤδη δὲ σφισι δοῦπος ἀρασσομένων πετράων
νωλεμές οὖατ' ἔβαλλε, βόων δ' ἀλιμυρές ἀκταί,
555 δὴ τότε ἔπειθ' ὁ μὲν ὄρτο πελειάδα χειρὶ μεμαρπῶς
Εὐφημος πρόρης ἐπιβήμεναι: οἱ δ' ὑπ' ἀνωγῇ
Τίφυος Ἀγνιάδαο θελήμονα ποιήσαντο
εἰρεσίην, ἴν' ἔπειτα διέκ πέτρας ἐλάσειαν,
κάρτεϊ ᾧ πισυνοί. τὰς δ' αὐτίκα λοίσθιον ἄλλων
560 οἰγομένας ἀγκῶνα περιγνάμψαντες ἴδοντο.
σὺν δὲ σφιν χύτο θυμός: ὁ δ' αἶξαι πετεύγεσσιν
Εὐφημος προέηκε πελειάδα: τοῖ δ' ἅμα πάντες
ἥειραν κεφαλὰς ἐσορώμενοι: ἡ δὲ δι' αὐτῶν
ἔπτατο: ταὶ δ' ἄμυδις πάλιν ἀντία ἀλλήλησιν
565 ἄμφω ὁμοῦ ξυνοῦσαι ἐπέκτυπον. ὄρτο δὲ πολλῇ
ἄλμῃ ἀναβρασθεῖσα, νέφος ὥς: αὐτὴ δὲ πόντος

σμερδαλέον: πάντῃ δὲ περὶ μέγας ἔβρεμεν αἰθήρ.

[549] Now when they reached the narrow strait of the winding passage, hemmed in on both sides by rugged cliffs, while an eddying current from below was washing against the ship as she moved on, they went forward sorely in dread; and now the thud of the crashing rocks ceaselessly struck their ears, and the sea-washed shores resounded, and then Euphemus grasped the dove in his hand and started to mount the prow; and they, at the bidding of Tiphys, son of Hagnias, rowed with good will to drive Argo between the rocks, trusting to their strength. And as they rounded a bend they saw the rocks opening for the last time of all. Their spirit melted within them; and Euphemus sent forth the dove to dart forward in flight; and they all together raised their heads to look; but she flew between them, and the rocks again rushed together and crashed as they met face to face. And the foam leapt up in a mass like a cloud; awful was the thunder of the sea; and all round them the mighty welkin roared.

κοῖλαι δὲ σπήλυγγες ὑπὸ σπιλάδας τρηχείας
κλυζούσης ἄλδος ἔνδον ἐβόμβεον: ὑψόθι δ' ὄχθης
570 λευκὴ καχλάζοντος ἀνέπτυε κύματος ἄχνη.
νῆα δ' ἔπειτα πέριξ εἴλει ρόος. ἄκρα δ' ἔκοψαν
οὐραῖα πτερὰ ταίγε πελειάδος: ἡ δ' ἀπόρουσεν
ἀσκηθῆς. ἐρέται δὲ μέγ' ἴαχον: ἔβραχε δ' αὐτὸς
Τῖφυς ἐρεσσέμεναι κρατερῶς. οἴγοντο γὰρ αὐτὶς
575 ἄνδιχα. τοὺς δ' ἐλάοντας ἔχεν τρόμος, ὄφρα μιν αὐτὴ
πλημμυρὶς παλίνορσος ἀνερχομένη κατένεικεν
εἴσω πετράων. τότε δ' αἰνότατον δέος εἶλεν
πάντας: ὑπὲρ κεφαλῆς γὰρ ἀμήχανος ἦεν ὄλεθρος.
ἦδη δ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα διὰ πλατὺς εἶδετο Πόντος,
580 καὶ σφισιν ἀπροφάτως ἀνέδου μέγα κῦμα πάροιθεν
κυρτόν, ἀποτμήγι σκοπιῇ ἴσον: οἱ δ' ἐσιδόντες
ἤμυσαν λοξοῖσι καρήασιν. εἴσατο γὰρ ῥα
νῆος ὑπὲρ πάσης κατεπάλμενον ἀμφικαλύψειν.
ἀλλὰ μιν ἔφθη Τῖφυς ὑπ' εἰρεσίῃ βαρύθουσιν
585 ἀγγαλάσας: τὸ δὲ πολλὸν ὑπὸ τρόπιν ἐξεκυλίσθη,
ἐκ δ' αὐτὴν πρύμνηθεν ἀνείρυσσε τηλόθι νῆα
πετράων: ὑψοῦ δὲ μεταχρονίη πεφόρητο.
Εὐφημος δ' ἀνὰ πάντας ἰὼν βοάσκειν ἐταίρους,
ἐμβαλέειν κώπησιν ὅσον σθένος: οἱ δ' ἀλαλητῶ
590 κόπτον ὕδωρ. ὅσσον δ' ἂν ὑπέικαθε νῆς ἐρέτῃσιν,
δις τόσον ἂψ ἀπόρουσεν: ἐπεγνάμπτοντο δὲ κῶπαι
ἥτε καμπύλα τόξα, βιαζομένων ἡρώων.

[568] The hollow caves beneath the rugged cliffs rumbled as the sea came surging in; and the white foam of the dashing wave spurted high above the

cliff. Next the current whirled the ship round. And the rocks shore away the end of the dove's tail- feathers; but away she flew unscathed. And the rowers gave a loud cry; and Tiphys himself called to them to row with might and main. For the rocks were again parting asunder. But as they rowed they trembled, until the tide returning drove them back within the rocks. Then most awful fear seized upon all; for over their head was destruction without escape. And now to right and left broad Pontus was seen, when suddenly a huge wave rose up before them, arched, like a steep rock; and at the sight they bowed with bended heads. For it seemed about to leap down upon the ship's whole length and to overwhelm them. But Tiphys was quick to ease the ship as she laboured with the oars; and in all its mass the wave rolled away beneath the keel, and at the stern it raised Argo herself and drew her far away from the rocks; and high in air was she borne. But Euphemus strode among all his comrades and cried to them to bend to their oars with all their might; and they with a shout smote the water. And as far as the ship yielded to the rowers, twice as far did she leap back, and the oar, were bent like curved bows as the heroes used their strength.

ἐνθεν δ' αὐτίκ' ἔπειτα κατηρεφὲς ἔσσυτο κύμα,
ἢ δ' ἄφαρ ὥστε κύλινδρος ἐπέτρεχε κύματι λάβρῳ
595 προπροκαταΐγδην κοίλης ἀλός. ἐν δ' ἄρα μέσσαις
Πληγάσι δινήεις εἶχεν ῥόος· αἱ δ' ἐκάτερθεν
σειόμεναι βρόμεον· πεπέδητο δὲ νήια δοῦρα.
καὶ τότε Ἀθηναίη στιβαρῆς ἀντέσπασε πέτρης
σκαίῃ, δεξιτερῇ δὲ διαμπερὲς ὥς φέρεσθαι.
600 ἢ δ' ἰκέλη πτερόεντι μετήορος ἔσσυτ' οἰστῶ.
ἔμπης δ' ἀφλάστοιο παρέθρισαν ἄκρα κόρυμβά
νωλεμὲς ἐμπλήξασαι ἐναντία. αὐτὰρ Ἀθήνη
Οὔλυμπόνδ' ἀνόρουσεν, ὅτ' ἀσκηθεῖς ὑπάλυξαν.
πέτραι δ' εἰς ἓνα χῶρον ἐπισχεδὸν ἀλλήλησιν
605 νωλεμὲς ἐρρίζωθεν, ὃ δὴ καὶ μόρσιμον ἦεν
ἐκ μακάρων, εὗτ' ἄν τις ἰδὼν διὰ νηὶ περήσῃ.
οἱ δὲ που ὀκρυόεντος ἀνέπνεον ἄρτι φόβοιο
ἡέρα παπταίνοντες ὁμοῦ πέλαγός τε θαλάσσης
τῇλ' ἀναπεπτάμενον. δὴ γὰρ φάσαν ἐξ Αἰδαο
610 σώεσθαι· Τῖφους δὲ παροίτατος ἤρχετο μύθων·
'ἔλπομαι αὐτῇ νηὶ τόγ' ἔμπεδον ἐξαλέασθαι
ἡμέας· οὐδέ τις ἄλλος ἐπαίτιος, ὅσσον Ἀθήνη,
ἢ οἱ ἐνέπνευσεν θεῖον μένος, εὗτέ μιν Ἄργος
γόμοφισιν συνάρασσε· θέμις δ' οὐκ ἔστιν ἀλῶναι.
615 Αἰσονίδη, τύνη δὲ τεοῦ βασιλῆος ἐφετμῇν,
εὗτε διὲκ πέτρας φυγέειν θεὸς ἡμῖν ὅπασσεν,
μηκέτι δείδιθι τοῖον· ἐπεὶ μετόπισθεν ἀέθλους
εὐπαλέας τελέεσθαι Ἀγηνορίδης φάτο Φινεύς.'

[593] Then a vaulted billow rushed upon them, and the ship like a cylinder ran on the furious wave plunging through the hollow sea. And the eddying current held her between the clashing rocks; and on each side they shook and thundered; and the ship's timbers were held fast. Then Athena with her left hand thrust back one mighty rock and with her right pushed the ship through; and she, like a winged arrow, sped through the air. Nevertheless the rocks, ceaselessly clashing, shore off as she passed the extreme end of the stern-ornament. But Athena soared up to Olympus, when they had escaped unscathed. And the rocks in one spot at that moment were rooted fast for ever to each other, which thing had been destined by the blessed gods, when a man in his ship should have passed between them alive. And the heroes breathed again after their chilling fear, beholding at the same time the sky and the expanse of sea spreading far and wide. For they deemed that they were saved from Hades; and Tiphys first of all began to speak: "It is my hope that we have safely escaped this peril — we, and the ship; and none other is the cause so much as Athena, who breathed into Argo divine strength when Argus knitted her together with bolts; and she may not be caught. Son of Aeson, no longer fear thou so much the hest of thy king, since a god hath granted us escape between the rocks; for Phineus, Agenor's son, said that our toils hereafter would be lightly accomplished."

ἦ ῥ' ἄμα, καὶ προτέρωσε παρὰ Βιθυνίδα γαῖαν
620 νῆα διὲκ πέλαγος σεῦεν μέσον. αὐτὰρ ὁ τόνγε
μειλιχίῳς ἐπέεσσι παραβλήδην προσέειπεν:
"Τίφω, τί μοι ταῦτα παρηγορέεις ἀχέοντι;
ἤμβροτον ἀσάμην τε κακὴν καὶ ἀμήχανον ἄτην.
χρῆν γὰρ ἐφιεμένοιο καταντικρὺ Πελῖαιο
625 αὐτίκ' ἀνήνασθαι τόνδε στόλον, εἰ καὶ ἔμελλον
νηλεῖως μελεῖστί κεδαιόμενος θανέεσθαι:
νῦν δὲ περισσὸν δεῖμα καὶ ἀτλήτους μελεδῶνας
ἄγκειμαι, στυγέων μὲν ἄλὸς κρυόεντα κέλευθα
νηὶ διαπλώειν, στυγέων δ', ὅτ' ἐπ' ἠπείροιο
630 βαίνωμεν. πάντῃ γὰρ ἀνάρσιοι ἄνδρες ἔασιν.
αἰεὶ δὲ στονόεσσαν ἐπ' ἡματι νύκτα φυλάσσω,
ἔξοτε τὸ πρῶτιστον ἐμὴν χάριν ἠγερέθεσθε,
φραζόμενος τὰ ἕκαστα σὺ δ' εὐμαρέως ἀγορεύεις
οἷον ἐῆς ψυχῆς ἀλέγων ὕπερ: αὐτὰρ ἔγωγε
635 εἶο μὲν οὐδ' ἠβαιὸν ἀτύζομαι: ἀμφὶ δὲ τοῖο
καὶ τοῦ ὁμῶς, καὶ σεῖο, καὶ ἄλλων δεῖδι' ἑταίρων
εἰ μὴ ἐς Ἑλλάδα γαῖαν ἀπήμονας ὕμμε κομίσσω."

[619] He spake, and at once he sped the ship onward through the midst of the sea past the Bithynian coast. But Jason with gentle words addressed him in reply: "Tiphys, why dost thou comfort thus my grieving heart? I have erred and am distraught in wretched and helpless ruin. For I ought, when Pelias

gave the command, to have straightway refused this quest to his face, yea, though I were doomed to die pitilessly, torn limb from limb, but now I am wrapped in excessive fear and cares unbearable, dreading to sail through the chilling paths of the sea, and dreading when we shall set foot on the mainland. For on every side are unkindly men. And ever when day is done I pass a night of groans from the time when ye first gathered together for my sake, while I take thought for all things; but thou talkest at thine ease, eating only for thine own life; while for myself I am dismayed not a whit; but I fear for this man and for that equally, and for thee, and for my other comrades, if I shall not bring you back safe to the land of Hellas.”

ὥς φάτ' ἀριστήων πειρώμενος· οἱ δ' ὁμάδησαν
θαρσαλέοις ἐπέεσσιν. ὁ δὲ φρένας ἔνδον ἰάνθη
640 κεκλομένων, καὶ ῥ' αὖτις ἐπιρρήδην μετέειπεν·
‘ὦ φίλοι, ὑμετέρῃ ἀρετῇ ἐνὶ θάρσος ἀέξω.
τουνεκα νῦν οὐδ' εἴ κε δι᾽ Αἴδαο βερέθρων
στελλοίμην, ἔτι τάρβος ἀνάγομαι, εἴτε πέλεσθε
ἔμπεδοι ἀργαλέοις ἐνὶ δειμασιν. ἀλλ' ὅτε πέτρας
645 Πληγάδας ἐξέπλωμεν, οἶομαι οὐκ ἔτ' ὀπίσσω
ἔσσεσθαι τοιόνδ' ἕτερον φόβον, εἰ ἐτεόν γε
φραδοσύνη Φινῆος ἐπισπόμενοι νεόμεσθα.’

[638] Thus he spake, making trial of the chiefs; but they shouted loud with cheerful words. And his heart was warmed within him at their cry and again he spake outright among them: “My friends, in your valour my courage is quickened. Wherefore now, even though I should take my way through the gulfs of Hades, no more shall I let fear seize upon me, since ye are steadfast amid cruel terrors. But now that we have sailed out from the striking rocks, I trow that never hereafter will there be another such fearful thing, if indeed we go on our way following the counsel of Phineus.”

ὥς φάτο, καὶ τοίων μὲν ἐλώφεον αὐτίκα μύθων,
εἰρεσίῃ δ' ἀλίσστον ἔχον πόνον· αἶψα δὲ τοίγε
650 Ῥήβαν ὠκυρόην ποταμὸν σκόπελόν τε Κολώνης,
ἄκρην δ' οὐ μετὰ δητὰ παρεξένεοντο Μέλαιναν,
τῇ δ' ἄρ' ἐπὶ προχοᾷς Φυλληίδας, ἔνθα πάροιθεν
Διψακὸς υἱ' Ἀθάμαντος ἐοῖς ὑπέδεκτο δόμοισιν,
ὀππόθ' ἅμα κριῶ φεῦγεν πόλιν Ὀρχομενοῖο·
655 τίκτε δὲ μιν νύμφη λειμωνιάς· οὐδέ οἱ ὕβρις
ἦνδανεν, ἀλλ' ἐθελημὸς ἐφ' ὕδασι πατρὸς ἐοῖο
μητέρι συνναίσκεν ἐπάκτια πώεα φέρβων.
τοῦ μὲν θ' ἱερὸν αἶψα, καὶ εὐρείας ποταμοῖο
ἠϊόνας πεδίον τε, βαθυρρείοντά τε Κάλπην
660 δερκόμενοι παράμειβον, ὁμῶς δ' ἐπὶ ἡματι νύκτα
νῆνεμον ἀκαμάτησιν ἐπερρώοντ' ἐλάτησιν.

οἶον δὲ πλαδόωσαν ἐπισχίζοντες ἄρουραν
ἐργατῖναι μογέουσι βόες, περὶ δ' ἄσπετος ἰδρῶς
εἵβεται ἐκ λαγόνων τε καὶ αὐχένος· ὄμματα δὲ σφιν
665 λοξὰ παραστρωφῶνται ὑπὸ ζυγοῦ· αὐτὰρ αὐτμῇ
αὐαλέῃ στομάτων ἄμοτον βρέμει· οἱ δ' ἐνὶ γαίῃ
χηλὰς σκηρίπτοντε πανημέριοι πονέονται.
τοῖς ἵκελοι ἥρωες ὑπὲξ ἄλδος εἴλκον ἐρετμά.

[648] Thus he spake, and straightway they ceased from such words and gave
unwearying labour to the oar; and quickly they passed by the swiftly flowing
river Rhebas and the peak of Colone, and soon thereafter the black headland,
and near it the mouth of the river Phyllis, where aforetime Dipsaeus received
in his home the son of Athamas, when with his ram he was flying from the
city of Orchomenus; and Dipsacus was the son of a meadow-
nymph, nor was insolence his delight, but contented by his father's stream he dwelt with his
mother, pasturing his flocks by the shore. And quickly they sighted and sailed
past his shrine and the broad banks of the river and the plain, and deep-
flowing Calpe, and all the windless night and the day they bent to their tireless
oars. And even as ploughing oxen toil as they cleave the moist earth, and
sweat streams in abundance from flank and neck; and from beneath the yoke
their eyes roll askance, while the breath ever rushes from their mouths in hot
gasps; and all day long they toil, planting their hoofs deep in the ground; like
them the heroes kept dragging their oars through the sea.

ἦμος δ' οὔτ' ἄρ' πω φάος ἄμβροτον, οὔτ' ἔτι λῆν
670 ὀρφναίῃ πέλεται, λεπτὸν δ' ἐπιδέδρομε νυκτὶ
φέγγος, ὅτ' ἀμφιλύκην μιν ἀνεγρόμενοι καλέουσιν,
τῆμος ἐρημαίης νήσου λιμέν' εἰσελάσαντες
Θυνιάδος, καμάτῳ πολυπήμονι βαῖνον ἔραζε.
τοῖσι δὲ Λητοῦς υἱός, ἀνερχόμενος Λυκίῃθεν
675 τῆλ' ἐπ' ἀπείρονα δῆμον Ὑπερβορέων ἀνθρώπων,
ἐξεφάνη· χρύσειοι δὲ παρειάων ἐκάτερθεν
πλοχομοὶ βοτρύοντες ἐπερρώοντο κιόντι·
λαιῇ δ' ἀργύρεον νόμα βίον, ἀμφὶ δὲ νότοις
ιοδόκη τετάνυστο κατωμαδόν· ἡ δ' ὑπὸ ποσσὶν
680 σείετο νῆσος ὅλη, κλύζεν δ' ἐπὶ κύματα χέρσῳ.
τοὺς δ' ἔλε θάμβος ἰδόντας ἀμήχανον· οὐδέ τις ἔτλη
ἀντίον ἀνγάσσεσθαι ἐς ὄμματα καλὰ θεοῖο.
στὰν δὲ κάτω νεύσαντες ἐπὶ χθονός· αὐτὰρ ὁ τηλοῦ
βῆ ῥ' ἵμεναι πόντονδε δι' ἠέρος· ὅψε δὲ τοῖον
685 Ὀρφεὺς ἔκφατο μῦθον ἀριστήεσσι πιφανύσκων·
'εἰ δ' ἄγε δὴ νῆσον μὲν Ἐωίου Ἀπόλλωνος
τῆνδ' ἱερὴν κλείωμεν, ἐπεὶ πάντεσσι φαάνθη
ἠῶος μετιών· τὰ δὲ ῥέξομεν οἷα πάρεστιν,
βωμόν ἀναστήσαντες ἐπάκτιον· εἰ δ' ἄν ὀπίσσω

690 γαῖαν ἔς Αἰμονίην ἀσκηθέα νόστον ὀπάσσει,
δὴ τότε οἱ κεραῶν ἐπὶ μηρία θήσομεν αἰγῶν.
νῦν δ' αὐτῶς κνίση λοιβῇσί τε μειλίξασθαι
κέκλωμαι. ἀλλ' ἴληθι ἄναξ, ἴληθι φαανθείς.'

[669] Now when divine light has not yet come nor is it utter darkness, but a faint glimmer has spread over the night, the time when men wake and call it twilight, at that hour they ran into the harbour of the desert island Thynias and, spent by weary toil, mounted the shore. And to them the son of Leto, as he passed from Lycia far away to the countless folk of the Hyperboreans, appeared; and about his cheeks on both sides his golden locks flowed in clusters as he moved; in his left hand he held a silver bow, and on his back was slung a quiver hanging from his shoulders; and beneath his feet all the island quaked, and the waves surged high on the beach. Helpless amazement seized them as they looked; and no one dared to gaze face to face into the fair eyes of the god. And they stood with heads bowed to the ground; but he, far off, passed on to the sea through the air; and at length Orpheus spake as follows, addressing the chiefs: "Come, let us call this island the sacred isle of Apollo of the Dawn since he has appeared to all, passing by at dawn; and we will offer such sacrifices as we can, building an altar on the shore; and if hereafter he shall grant us a safe return to the Haemonian land, then will we lay on his altar the thighs of horned goats. And now I bid you propitiate him with the steam of sacrifice and libations. Be gracious, O king, be gracious in thy appearing."

ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη: καὶ τοὶ μὲν ἄφαρ βωμὸν τετύκοντο
695 χερμάσιν: οἱ δ' ἀνὰ νῆσον ἐδίνεον, ἐξερέοντες
εἷ κέ τιν' ἢ κεμάδων, ἢ ἀγροτέρων ἐσίδοινεν
αἰγῶν, οἷά τε πολλὰ βαθείῃ βόσκεται ὕλῃ.
τοῖσι δὲ Λητοΐδης ἄγρην πόρεν: ἐκ δὲ νυ πάντων
εὐαγέως ἱερῷ ἀνὰ διπλόα μηρία βωμῷ
700 καῖον, ἐπικλείοντες Ἑώιον Ἀπόλλωνα.
ἀμφὶ δὲ δαιομένοις εὐρὺν χορὸν ἐστήσαντο,
καλὸν Ἰηπαιήον· Ἰηπαιήονα Φοῖβον
μελπόμενοι: σὺν δέ σφιν εὖς πάις Οἰάγροιο
Βιστονίῃ φόρμιγγι λιγείης ἤρχεν ᾠοιδῆς:
705 ὥς ποτε πετραίῃ ὑπὸ δειράδι Παρνησοῖο
Δελφύνην τόξοισι πελώριον ἐξενάριξεν,
κοῦρος ἔων ἔτι γυμνός, ἔτι πλοκάμοισι γεγηθώς.
ἰλήκοις: αἰεὶ τοι, ἄναξ, ἄτμητοι ἔθειραι,
αἰὲν ἀδήλητοι: τὼς γὰρ θέμις, οἰόθι δ' αὐτῇ
710 Λητῷ Κοιογένεια φίλαις ἐν χερσὶν ἀφάσσει.
πολλὰ δὲ Κωρύκiai νύμφαι, Πλείστοιο θύγατρες,
θαρσύνεσκον ἔπεσσιν, Ἰήιε κекληγυῖαι:
ἐνθεν δὴ τόδε καλὸν ἐφύμνιον ἔπλετο Φοῖβῳ.

[694] Thus he spake, and they straightway built up an altar with shingle; and over the island they wandered, seeking if haply they could get a glimpse of a fawn or a wild goat, that often seek their pasture in the deep wood. And for them Leto's son provided a quarry; and with pious rites they wrapped in fat the thigh bones of them all and burnt them on the sacred altar, celebrating Apollo, Lord of Dawn. And round the burning sacrifice they set up a broad dancing-ring, singing, "All hail fair god of healing, Phoebus, all hail," and with them Oeagrus' goodly son began a clear lay on his Bistonian lyre; how once beneath the rocky ridge of Parnassus he slew with his bow the monster Delphyne, he, still young and beardless, still rejoicing in his long tresses. Mayst thou be gracious! Ever, O king, be thy locks unshorn, ever unravaged; for so is it right. And none but Leto, daughter of Coeus, strokes them with her dear hands. And often the Corycian nymphs, daughters of Pleistus, took up the cheering strain crying "Healer"; hence arose this lovely refrain of the hymn to Phoebus.

αὐτὰρ ἐπειδὴ τόνγε χορεΐη μέλψαν αἰοιδῇ,
715 λοιβαῖς εὐαγέεσσιν ἐπώμοσαν, ἧ μὲν ἀρήξουσιν
ἀλλήλοισι εἰσαιὲν ὁμοφροσύνῃσι νόοιο,
ἀπτόμενοι θυῶν· καί τ' εἰσέτι νῦν γε τέτυκται
κεῖσ' Ὀμονοίης ἱρὸν εὐφρονος, ὃ ρ' ἐκάμοντο
αὐτοὶ κυδίστην τότε δαίμονα πορσαίνοντες.

[714] Now when they had celebrated him with dance and song they took an oath with holy libations, that they would ever help each other with concord of heart, touching the sacrifice as they swore; and even now there stands there a temple to gracious Concord, which the heroes themselves reared, paying honour at that time to the glorious goddess.

720 ἦμος δὲ τρίτατον φάος ἤλυθε, δὴ τότε ἔπειτα
ἄκραεῖ ζεφύρῳ νῆσον λίπον αἰπήεσσαν.
ἔνθεν δ' ἀντιπέρην ποταμοῦ στόμα Σαγγαρίοιο
καὶ Μαριανδυνῶν ἀνδρῶν ἐριθιλέα γαῖαν
ἠδὲ Λύκοιο ῥέεθρα καὶ Ἀνθεμοεισίδα λίμνην
725 δερκόμενοι παράμειβον· ὑπὸ πνοιῇ δὲ κάλωες
ὄπλα τε νῆια πάντα τινάσσετο νισσομένοισιν.
ἠῶθεν δ' ἀνέμοιο διὰ κνέφας εὐνηθέντος
ἀσπασίως ἄκρης Ἀχερουσίδος ὄρμον ἵκοντο.
ἦ μὲν τε κρημνοῖσιν ἀνίσχεται ἡλιβάτοισιν,
730 εἰς ἄλλα δερκομένη Βιθυνίδα· τῇ δ' ὑπὸ πέτραι
λίσσάδες ἐρρίζωνται ἀλίβροχοι· ἀμφὶ δὲ τῇσιν
κῦμα κυλινδόμενον μεγάλα βρέμει· αὐτὰρ ὑπερθεῖν
ἀμφιλαφεῖς πλατάνιστοι ἐπ' ἀκροτάτῃ πεφύασιν.
ἐκ δ' αὐτῆς εἶσω κατακέκλιται ἡπειρόνδε
735 κοίλῃ ὑπαιθα νάπη, ἵνα τε σπέος ἔστ' Αἶδαο

ὑλῇ καὶ πέτρῃσιν ἐπηρεφές, ἔνθεν αὐτμῇ
πηγυλῖς, ὀκρυόεντος ἀναπνείουσα μυχοῖο
συνεχές, ἀργινόεσσαν αἰεὶ περιτέτροφε πάχνην,
ἥ τε μεσημβριόωντος ἰαίνεται ἡελίοιο.

⁷⁴⁰ σιγῇ δ' οὐποτε τήνγε κατὰ βλοσυρὴν ἔχει ἄκρην,
ἀλλ' ἄμυδις πόντοιο θ' ὑπὸ στένει ἡχήεντος,
φύλλων τε πνοιῇσι τινασσομένων μυχίησιν.
ἐνθα δὲ καὶ προχοαὶ ποταμοῦ Ἀχέροντος ἕασιν,
ὃς τε δι᾽ ἄκρης ἀνερεύγεται εἰς ἅλα βάλλων

⁷⁴⁵ ἠώην· κοίλῃ δὲ φάραγξ κατὰγει μιν ἄνωθεν.
τὸν μὲν ἐν ὀψιγόνοισι Σοωναύτην ὀνόμηναν
Νισαῖοι Μεγαρῆες, ὅτε νάσσεσθαι ἔμελλον
γῆν Μαρριανδυνῶν· δὴ γὰρ σφεας ἐξέσάωσεν
αὐτῇσιν νήεσσι, κακῇ χρίμψαντας ἀέλλῃ.

⁷⁵⁰ τῇ ῥ' οἷγ' αὐτίκα νηὶ δι᾽ Ἀχερουσίδος ἄκρης
εἰσωποὶ ἀνέμοιο νέον λήγοντος ἔκελσαν.

[720] Now when the third morning came, with a fresh west wind they left the lofty island. Next, on the opposite side they saw and passed the mouth of the river Sangarius and the fertile land of the Mariandyni, and the stream of Lycus and the Anthemoesian lake; and beneath the breeze the ropes and all the tackling quivered as they sped onward. During the night the wind ceased and at dawn they gladly reached the haven of the Acherusian headland. It rises aloft with steep cliffs, looking towards the Bithynian sea; and beneath it smooth rocks, ever washed by the sea, stand rooted firm; and round them the wave rolls and thunders loud, but above, wide-spreading plane trees grow on the topmost point. And from it towards the land a hollow glen slopes gradually away, where there is a cave of Hades overarched by wood and rocks. From here an icy breath, unceasingly issuing from the chill recess, ever forms a glistening rime which melts again beneath the midday sun. And never does silence hold that grim headland, but there is a continual murmur from the sounding sea and the leaves that quiver in the winds from the cave. And here is the outfall of the river Acheron which bursts its way through the headland and falls into the Eastern sea, and a hollow ravine brings it down from above. In after times the Nisaeon Megarians named it Soonantes when they were about to settle in the land of the Mariandyni. For indeed the river saved them with their ships when they were caught in a violent tempest. By this way the heroes took the ship through the Acherusian headland and came to land over against it as the wind had just ceased.

οὐδ' ἄρα δηθὰ Λύκον, κείνης πρόμον ἡπεῖροιο,
καὶ Μαρριανδυνὸς λάθον ἀνέρας ὀρμισθέντες
αὐθένται Ἀμύκοιο κατὰ κλέος, ὃ πρὶν ἄκουον:

⁷⁵⁵ ἀλλὰ καὶ ἄρθμὸν ἔθεντο μετὰ σφίσι τοῖο ἔκρητι.
αὐτὸν δ' ὥστε θεὸν Πολυδεῦκεα δεξιόωντο

πάντοθεν ἀγρόμενοι· ἐπεὶ ἤ μάλα τοίγ' ἐπὶ δηρόν
 ἀντιβίην Βέβρυξιν ὑπερφιάλοις πολέμιζον.
 καὶ δὴ πασσυδίῃ μεγάρων ἔντοσθε Λύκοιο
 760 κεῖν' ἡμάρ φιλότῃτι, μετὰ πτολίεθρον ἰόντες,
 δαίτην ἀμφίεπον, τέρποντό τε θυμὸν ἔπεσσιν.
 Λισονίδης μὲν οἱ γενεὴν καὶ οὔνομ' ἐκάστου
 σφωιτέρων μυθεῖθ' ἐτάρων, Πελίαό τ' ἐφετμάς,
 ἦδ' ὥς Λημνιάδεσσιν ἐπεξεينوῦντο γυναιξίν,
 765 ὅσσα τε Κύζικον ἀμφὶ Δολιονίην ἐτελεσσαν:
 Μυσίδα δ' ὥς ἀφίκοντο Κίον θ', ὅθι κάλλιπον ἦρω
 Ἡρακλέην ἀέκοντι νόῳ, Γλαύκοιό τε βάζιν
 πέφραδε, καὶ Βέβρυκας ὅπως Ἄμυκόν τ' ἐδάϊξαν,
 καὶ Φινῆος ἔειπε θεοπροπίας τε δύην τε,
 770 ἦδ' ὥς Κυανέας πέτρας φύγον, ὥς τ' ἀβόλησαν
 Λητοῖδῃ κατὰ νῆσον. ὁ δ' ἐξείης ἐνέποντος
 θέλγετ' ἀκουῇ θυμόν· ἄχος δ' ἔλεν Ἡρακλῆϊ
 λειπομένῳ, καὶ τοῖον ἔπος πάντεσσι μετηύδα:

[752] Not long had they come unmarked by Lycus, the lord of that land, and the Mariandyni — they, the slayers of Amycus, according to the report which the people heard before; but for that very deed they even made a league with the heroes. And Polydeuces himself they welcomed as a god, flocking from every side, since for a long time had they been warring against the arrogant Bebrycians. And so they went up all together into the city, and all that day with friendly feelings made ready a feast within the palace of Lycus and gladdened their souls with converse. Aeson's son told him the lineage and name of each of his comrades and the behests of Pelias, and how they were welcomed by the Lemnian women, and all that they did at Dolionian Cyzicus; and how they reached the Mysian land and Cius, where, sore against their will, they left behind the hero Heracles, and he told the saying of Glaucus, and how they slew the Bebrycians and Amycus, and he told of the prophecies and affliction of Phineus, and how they escaped the Cyanean rocks, and how they met with Leto's son at the island. And as he told all, Lycus was charmed in soul with listening; and he grieved for Heracles left behind, and spake as follows among them all:

ὦ φίλοι, οἴου φωτὸς ἀποπλαγχθέντες ἀρωγῆς
 775 πείρετ' ἐς Αἰήτην τόσσον πλόον. εὖ γὰρ ἐγώ μιν
 Δασκύλου ἐν μεγάροισι καταυτόθι πατρὸς ἐμοῖο
 οἶδ' ἐσιδών, ὅτε δεῦρο δι' Ἀσίδος ἡπείροιο
 πεζὸς ἔβη ζωστήρα φιλοπτολέμοιο κομίζων
 Ἴππολύτης· ἐμὲ δ' εὗρε νέον χνοάοντα ἰούλους.
 780 ἔνθα δ' ἐπὶ Πριόλαο κασιγνήτοιο θανόντος
 ἡμετέρου Μυσοῖσιν ὑπ' ἀνδράσιν, ὅντινα λαὸς
 οἰκτίστοις ἐλέγοισιν ὀδύρεται ἐξέτι κείνου,

ἀθλέων Τιτὶν ἀπεκαίνυτο πυγμαχέοντα
 καρτερόν, ὃς πάντεσσι μετέπρεπεν ἠιθέοισιν
 785 εἶδος τ' ἠδὲ βίην: χαμάδις δέ οἱ ἦλασ' ὀδόντας.
 αὐτὰρ ὁμοῦ Μυσοῖσιν ἐμῷ ὑπὸ πατρὶ δάμασσαν
 καὶ Φρύγας, οἱ ναίουσιν ὁμώλακας ἤμιν ἀρούρας,
 φῦλά τε Βιθυνῶν αὐτῇ κτεατίσσατο γαίῃ,
 ἔστ' ἐπὶ Ῥηβαίου προχοᾷς σκόπελόν τε Κολώνης:
 790 Παφλαγόνες τ' ἐπὶ τοῖς Πελοπήιοι εἵκαθον αὐτῶς,
 ὄσσοις Βιλλαίοιο μέλαν περιάγνυται ὕδωρ.
 ἀλλὰ με νῦν Βέβρυκες ὑπερβασίῃ τ' Ἀμύκοιο
 τηλόθι ναιετάοντος, ἐνόσφισαν, Ἡρακλῆος,
 δὴν ἀποτεμνόμενοι γαίης ἄλις, ὄφρ' ἐβάλοντο
 795 οὖρα βαθυρρείοντος ὑφ' εἰαμεναῖς Ὑπίοιο.
 ἔμπης δ' ἐξ ὑμέων ἔδοσαν τίσιν: οὐδέ ἔφημι
 ἥματι τῷδ' ἀέκητι θεῶν ἐπελάσσαι ἄρηα,
 Τυνδαρίδην Βέβρυξιν, ὅτ' ἀνέρα κεῖνον ἔπεφνεν.
 τῷ νῦν ἦντιν' ἐγὼ τίσαι χάριν ἄρκιός εἰμι,
 800 τίσω προφρονέως. ἡ γὰρ θέμις ηπεοανοισιν
 ἀνδράσιν, εὖτ' ἄρξωσιν ἀρείονες ἄλλοι ὀφέλλειν.
 ξυνῇ μὲν πάντεσσιν ὁμόστολον ὕμμιν ἔπεσθαι
 Δάσκυλον ὀτρυνέω, ἐμὸν υἷα: τοῖο δ' ἰόντος,
 ἦ τ' ἂν ἐυξείνοισι διέξ ἄλὸς ἀντιάοιτε
 805 ἀνδράσιν, ὄφρ' αὐτοῖο ποτὶ στόμα Θερμώδοντος.
 νόσφι δὲ Τυνδαρίδαις Ἀχερουσίδος ὑπόθεν ἄκρης
 εἴσομαι ἱερὸν αἰπύ: τὸ μὲν μάλα τηλόθι πάντες
 ναυτίλοι ἅμ' πέλαγος θηεῦμενοι ἰλάσσονται:
 καὶ κέ σφιν μετέπειτα πρὸ ἄστεος, οἷα θεοῖσιν,
 810 πίονας εὐα:ρότοιο γύας πεδίοιο ταμοίμην.'

[774] "O friends, what a man he was from whose help ye have fallen away, as ye cleave your long path to Aeetes; for well do I know that I saw him here in the halls of Dascylus my father, when he came hither on foot through the land of Asia bringing the girdle of warlike Hippolyte; and me he found with the down just growing on my cheeks. And here, when my brother Priolas was slain by the Mysians — my brother, whom ever since the people lament with most piteous dirges — he entered the lists with Titias in boxing and slew him, mighty Titias, who surpassed all the youths in beauty and strength; and he dashed his teeth to the ground. Together with the Mysians he subdued beneath my father's sway the Phrygians also, who inhabit the lands next to us, and he made his own the tribes of the Bithynians and their land, as far as the mouth of Rhebas and the peak of Colone; and besides them the Paphlagonians of Pelops yielded just as they were, even all those round whom the dark water of Billaeus breaks. But now the Bebrycians and the insolence of Amycus have robbed me, since Heracles dwells far away, for they have long been cutting off huge pieces of my land until they have set their bounds at the meadows of

deep-flowing Hypius. Nevertheless, by your hands have they paid the penalty; and it was not without the will of heaven, I trow, that he brought war on the Bebrycians this day — he, the son of Tyndareus, when he slew that champion. Wherefore whatever requital I am now able to pay, gladly will I pay it, for that is the rule for weaker men when the stronger begin to help them. So with you all, and in your company, I bid Dascylus my son follow; and if he goes, you will find all men friendly that ye meet on your way through the sea even to the mouth of the river Thermodon. And besides that, to the sons of Tyndareus will I raise a lofty temple on the Acherusian height, which all sailors shall mark far across the sea and shall reverence; and hereafter for them will I set apart outside the city, as for gods, some fertile fields of the well-tilled plain.”

ὅς τότε μὲν δαῖτ' ἀμφὶ πανήμεροι ἐνσιώοντο.
 ἥρι γε μὴν ἐπὶ νῆα κατήϊσαν ἐγκονέοντες:
 καὶ δ' αὐτὸς σὺν τοῖσι Λύκος κίε, μυρί' ὀπάσσας
 δῶρα φέρειν: ἅμα δ' υἷα δόμων ἔκπεμπε νέεσθαι.

[811] Thus all day long they revelled at the banquet. But at dawn they hied down to the ship in haste; and with them went Lycus himself, when he had given them countless gifts to bear away; and with them he sent forth his son from his home.

815 ἔνθα δ' Ἀβαντιάδην πεπρωμένη ἤλασε μοῖρα
 Ἴδμονα, μαντοσύνησι κεκασμένον. ἀλλὰ μιν οὔτι
 μαντοσύναι ἐσάωσαν, ἐπεὶ χρεὼ ἦγε δαμῆναι:
 κεῖτο γὰρ εἰαμενῇ δονακῶδεος ἐν ποταμοῖο
 ψυχόμενος λαγόνας τε καὶ ἄσπετον ἰλὺ νηδὺν
 820 κάπριος ἀργιόδων, ὀλοὸν τέρας, ὃν ῥα καὶ αὐταὶ
 νύμφαι ἐλειονόμοι ὑπεδείδισαν: οὐδέ τις ἀνδρῶν
 ἡεῖδει: οἷος δὲ κατὰ πλατὺν βόσκετο τῖφος.
 αὐτὰρ ὃγ' ἰλυόεντος ἀνὰ θρωσμοὺς ποταμοῖο
 ρίσσεται Ἀβαντιάδης: ὁ δ' ἄρ' ἔκποθεν ἀφράστοιο
 825 ὕψι μάλ' ἐκ δονάκων ἀνεπάλμενος ἤλασε μηρὸν
 αἰγίδην, μέσσας δὲ σὺν ὀστέῳ ἵνας ἔκερσεν.
 ὀξὺ δ' ὄγε κλάγξας οὔδαι πέσεν: οἱ δὲ τυπέντος
 ἄθροοι ἀντιάχησαν. ὀρέξατο δ' αἶψ' ὀλοοῖο
 Πηλεὺς αἰγανέη φύγαδ' εἰς ἔλος ὀρμηθέντος
 830 καπρίου: ἔσσυτο δ' αὖτις ἐναντίος: ἀλλὰ μιν Ἴδας
 οὔτασε, βεβρυχῶς δὲ θοῶ περικάππεσε δουρί.
 καὶ τὸν μὲν χαμάδις λίπον αὐτόθι πεπτηῶτα:
 τὸν δ' ἔταροι ἐπὶ νῆα φέρον ψυχορραγέοντα,
 ἀχνύμενοι, χεῖρεσσι δ' ἐὼν ἐνικάτθαν' ἐταίρων.

[815] And here his destined fate smote Idmon, son of Abas, skilled in soothsaying; but not at all did his soothsaying save him, for necessity drew him on to death. For in the mead of the reedy river there lay, cooling his

flanks and huge belly in the mud, a white-tusked boar, a deadly monster, whom even the nymphs of the marsh dreaded, and no man knew it; but all alone he was feeding in the wide fell. But the son of Abas was passing along the raised banks of the muddy river, and the boar from some unseen lair leapt out of the reed-bed, and charging gashed his thigh and severed in twain the sinews and the bone. And with a sharp cry the hero fell to the ground; and as he was struck his comrades flocked together with answering cry. And quickly Peleus with his hunting spear aimed at the murderous boar as he fled back into the fen; and again he turned and charged; but Idas wounded him, and with a roar he fell impaled upon the sharp spear. And the boar they left on the ground just as he had fallen there; but Idmon, now at the last gasp, his comrades bore to the ship in sorrow of heart, and he died in his comrades' arms.

835 ἔνθα δὲ ναυτιλίας μὲν ἐρητύοντο μέλεσθαι,
ἀμφὶ δὲ κηδεῖη νέκυος μένον ἄσχαλόωντες.
ἤματα δὲ τρία πάντα γόων· ἐτέρῳ δέ μιν ἦδη
τάρχχον μεγαλωστί· συνεκτερείζε δὲ λαὸς
αὐτῷ ὁμοῦ βασιλῆϊ Λύκῳ· παρὰ δ' ἄσπετα μῆλα,
840 ἣ θέμις οἰχομένοισι, ταφήναι λαιμοτόμησαν.
καὶ δὴ τοι κέχυται τοῦδ' ἀνέρος ἐν χθονὶ κείνῃ
τύμβος· σῆμα δ' ἔπεστι καὶ ὀψιγόνοισιν ἰδέσθαι,
νηίου ἐκ κοτίνιο φάλαγξ· θαλέθει δέ τε φύλλοις
ἄκρης τυτθὸν ἔνερθ' Ἀχερουσίδος· εἰ δέ με καὶ τὸ
845 χρεῖῳ ἀπηλεγέως Μουσέων ὑπο γηρύσασθαι,
τόνδε πολιissoῦχον διεπέφραδε Βοιωτοῖσιν
Νισαίοισι τε Φοῖβος ἐπιρρήδην ἰλάεσθαι,
ἀμφὶ δὲ τήνγῃ φάλαγγα παλαιγενέος κοτίνιο
ἄστῳ βαλεῖν· οἱ δ' ἀντὶ θεοῦδέος Αἰολίδας
850 Ἰδμονος εἰσέτι νῦν Ἀγαμήστορα κυδαίνουσιν.

[835] And here they stayed from taking thought for their voyaging and abode in grief for the burial of their dead friend. And for three whole days they lamented; and on the next they buried him with full honours, and the people and King Lycus himself took part in the funeral rites; and, as is the due of the departed, they slaughtered countless sheep at his tomb. And so a barrow to this hero was raised in that land, and there stands a token for men of later days to see, the trunk of a wild olive tree, such as ships are built of; and it flourishes with its green leaves a little below the Acherusian headland. And if at the bidding of the Muses I must tell this tale outright, Phoebus strictly commanded the Boeotians and Nisaeans to worship him as guardian of their city, and to build their city round the trunk of the ancient wild olive; but they, instead of the god-fearing Aeolid Idmon, at this day honour Agamestor.

τίς γὰρ δὴ θάνεν ἄλλος; ἐπεὶ καὶ ἔτ' αὖτις ἔχουσιν
ἥρωες τότε τύμβον ἀποφθιμένου ἐτάριοιο.

δοῖα γὰρ οὖν κείνων ἔτι σήματα φαίνεται ἀνδρῶν.
 Ἀγνιάδην Τίφυν θανέειν φάτις· οὐδέ οἱ ἦεν
 855 μοῖρ' ἔτι ναυτίλλεσθαι ἐκαστέρῳ. ἀλλὰ νῦν καὶ τὸν
 αὐθι μινυνθαδίη πάτρης ἐκάς εὐνασε νοῦσος,
 εἰσότ' Ἀβαντιάδαο νέκυν κτερείξεν ὄμιλος.
 ἄτλητον δ' ὅλοῳ ἐπὶ πήματι κῆδος ἔλοντο.
 δὴ γὰρ ἐπεὶ καὶ τόνδε παρασχεδὼν ἐκτερέιξαν
 860 αὐτοῦ, ἀμηχανίησιν ἄλως προπάροιθε πεσόντες,
 ἐντυπὰς εὐκῆλως εἰλυμένοι οὔτε τι σίτου
 μνώνοντ' οὔτε ποτοῖο· κατήμυσαν δ' ἀχέεσσιν
 θυμόν, ἐπεὶ μάλα πολλὸν ἀπ' ἐλπίδος ἔπλετο νόστος.
 καὶ νῦν κ' ἔτι προτέρῳ τετιμημένοι ἰσχανόωντο,
 865 εἰ μὴ ἄρ' Ἀγκαίῳ περιώσιον ἔμβαλεν Ἥρη
 θάρσος, ὃν Ἴμβρασίοισι παρ' ὕδασι Ναστυπάλεια
 τίκτε Ποσειδάωνι· περιπρὸ γὰρ εὖ ἐκέκαστο
 ἰθύνειν, Πηλῆα δ' ἐπεσσύμενος προσέειπεν·
 'Αἰακίδη, πῶς καλὸν ἀφειδήσαντας ἀέθλων
 870 γαίῃ ἐν ἄλλοδαπῇ δὴν ἔμμεναι; οὐ μὲν ἄρῃος
 ἴδριν ἐόντά με τόσσον ἄγει μετὰ κῶας Ἰήσων
 παρθενίης ἀπάνευθεν, ὅσον τ' ἐπίστορα νηῶν.
 τῷ μὴ μοι τυτθὸν γε δέος περὶ νηὶ πελέσθω.
 ὧς δὲ καὶ ὅλλοι δεῦρο δαήμονες ἄνδρες ἔασιν,
 875 τῶν ὅτινα πρύμνης ἐπιβήσομεν, οὔτις ἰάψει
 ναυτιλίην. ἀλλ' ὧκα, παραιφάμενος τάδε πάντα,
 θαρσαλέως ὁρόθυνον ἐπιμνήσασθαι ἀέθλου.'

[851] Who was the next that died? For then a second time the heroes heaped up a barrow for a comrade dead. For still are to be seen two monuments of those heroes. The tale goes that Tiphys son of Hagnias died; nor was it his destiny thereafter to sail any further. But him there on the spot a short sickness laid to rest far from his native land, when the company had paid due honours to the dead son of Abas. And at the cruel woe they were seized with unbearable grief. For when with due honours they had buried him also hard by the seer, they cast themselves down in helplessness on the sea-shore silently, closely wrapped up, and took no thought for meat or drink; and their spirit drooped in grief, for all hope of return was gone. And in their sorrow they would have stayed from going further had not Hera kindled exceeding courage in Ancaeus, whom near the waters of Imbrasus Astypalaea bore to Poseidon; for especially was he skilled in steering and eagerly did he address Peleus: "Son of Aeacus, is it well for us to give up our toils and linger on in a strange land? Not so much for my prowess in war did Jason take me with him in quest of the fleece, far from Parthenia, as for my knowledge of ships. Wherefore, I pray, let there be no fear for the ship. And so there are here other men of skill, of whom none will harm our voyaging, whomsoever we set at the helm. But quickly tell forth all this and boldly urge them to call to mind their task."

ὧς φάτο· τοῖο δὲ θυμὸς ὀρέξατο γηθοσύνησιν.
αὐτίκα δ' οὐ μετὰ δηρὸν ἐνὶ μέσσοις ἀγόρευσεν·
880 'δαιμόνιοι, τί νυ πένθος ἐτώσιον ἴσχομεν αὐτῶς;
οἱ μὲν γάρ ποθι τοῦτον, ὃν ἔλλαχον, οἶτον ὄλοντο·
ἡμῖν δ' ἐν γὰρ ἔασι κυβερνητῆρες ὁμίλῳ,
καὶ πολέες. τῷ μὴ τι διατριβώμεθα πείρης·
ἀλλ' ἔγρεσθ' εἰς ἔργον, ἀπορρίψαντες ἀνίας.'

[878] Thus he spake; and Peleus' soul was stirred with gladness, and straightway he spake in the midst of all: "My friends, why do we thus cherish a bootless grief like this? For those two have perished by the fate they have met with; but among our host are steersmen yet, and many a one. Wherefore let us not delay our attempt, but rouse yourselves to the work and cast away your griefs."

885 τὸν δ' αὖτ' Αἴσονος υἱὸς ἀμηχανέων προσέειπεν·
'Αἰακίδη, πῇ δ' οἶδε κυβερνητῆρες ἔασιν;
οὓς μὲν γάρ τὸ πάροιθε δαήμονας εὐχόμεθ' εἶναι,
οἱ δὲ κατηφῆσαντες ἐμεῦ πλέον ἀσχαλώωσιν.
τῷ καὶ ὁμοῦ φθιμένοισι κακὴν προτιόσσομαι ἄτην,
890 εἰ δὴ μὴτ' ὀλοοῖο μετὰ πτόλιν Αἰήταο
ἔσσεται, ἥε καὶ αὖτις ἐς Ἑλλάδα γαῖαν ἰκέσθαι
πετράων ἔκτοσθε, κατ' αὐτόθι δ' ἄμμε καλύψει
ἀκλειῶς κακὸς οἶτος, ἐτώσια γηράσκοντας.'

[885] And him in reply Aeson's son addressed with helpless words: "Son of Aeacus, where are these steersmen of thine? For those whom we once deemed to be men of skill, they even more than I are bowed with vexation of heart. Wherefore I forebode an evil doom for us even as for the dead, if it shall be our lot neither to reach the city of fell Aeetes, nor ever again to pass beyond the rocks to the land of Hellas, but a wretched fate will enshroud us here ingloriously till we grow old for naught."

ὧς ἔφατ'· Ἀγκαῖος δὲ μάλ' ἐσσυμένως ὑπέδεκτο
895 νῆα θοὴν ἄξιεν· δὴ γὰρ θεοῦ ἐτράπεθ' ὁρμῇ.
τὸν δὲ μετ' Ἐργῖνος καὶ Ναύπλιος Εὐφημὸς τε
ὄρρυντ', ἰθύνειν λελητημένοι. ἀλλ' ἄρα τούσγε
ἔσχεθον· Ἀγκαίῳ δὲ πολεῖς ἤγησαν ἐταίρων.

[894] Thus he spake, but Ancaeus quickly undertook to guide the swift ship; for he was stirred by the impulse of the goddess. And after him Erginus and Nauplius and Euphemus started up, eager to steer. But the others held them back, and many of his comrades granted it to Ancaeus.

Ἥῳι δῆπειτα δυωδεκάτῳ ἐπέβαινον
900 ἥματι· δὴ γάρ σφιν ζεφύρου μέγας οὖρος ἤητο.

καρπαλίμως δ' Ἀχέροντα διεξεπέρασαν ἑρετμοῖς,
 ἐκ δ' ἔχεαν πίσυνοι ἀνέμῳ λῖνα, πουλὺ δ' ἐπιπρὸ
 λαιφέων πεπταμένων τέμονον πλόον εὐδιόωντες.
 ὦκα δὲ Καλλιχόροιο παρὰ προχοᾷς ποταμοῖο
 905 ἦλuthον, ἔνθ' ἐνέπουσι Διὸς Νυσήιον υἱά,
 Ἴνδῶν ἡνίκα φῦλα λιπὼν κατενάσσατο Θήβας,
 ὀργιάσαι, στήσαι τε χοροὺς ἄντροιο πάροιθεν,
 ᾧ ἐν ἀμειδίτους ἀγίας ἡυλίζετο νύκτας,
 ἐξ οὗ Καλλίχορον ποταμὸν περιναιετάοντες
 910 ἡδὲ καὶ Αὐλίον ἄντρον ἐπωνυμίην καλέουσιν.

[899] So on the twelfth day they went aboard at dawn, for a strong breeze of westerly wind was blowing. And quickly with the oars they passed out through the river Acheron and, trusting to the wind, shook out their sails, and with canvas spread far and wide they were cleaving their passage through the waves in fair weather. And soon they passed the outfall of the river Callichorus, where, as the tale goes, the Nysean son of Zeus, when he had left the tribes of the Indians and came to dwell at Thebes, held revels and arrayed dances in front of a cave, wherein he passed unsmiling sacred nights, from which time the neighbours call the river by the name of Callichorus and the cave Aulion.

ἐνθεν δὲ Σθενέλου τάφον ἔδρακον Ἀκτορίδαο,
 ὃς ῥά τ' Ἀμαζονίδων πολυθαρσέος ἐκ πολέμοιο
 ἄψ ἀνίων — δὴ γὰρ συνανήλυθεν Ἡρακλῆι —
 βλήμενος ἰῶ κείθεν ἐπ' ἀγχιάλου θάνεν ἀκτῆς.
 915 οὐ μὲν θην προτέρῳ ἔτ' ἐμέτρεον. ἦκε γὰρ αὐτὴ
 Φερσεφόνη ψυχὴν πολυδάκρυον Ἀκτορίδαο
 λισσομένην τυτθὸν περ ὀμήθεας ἄνδρας ἰδέσθαι.
 τύμβου δὲ στεφάνης ἐπιβάς σκοπιάζετο νῆα
 τοῖος ἑών, οἷος πόλεμόνδ' ἱέν· ἀμφὶ δὲ καλὴ
 920 τετράφαλος φοίνικι λόφῳ ἐπελάμπετο πῆληξ.
 καὶ ῥ' ὁ μὲν αὖτις ἔδυνε μέγαν ζόφον· οἱ δ' ἐσιδόντες
 θάμβησαν· τοὺς δ' ὥρσε θεοπροπέων ἐπικέλσαι
 Ἀμπυκίδης Μόψος λοιβῆσί τε μειλίξασθαι.
 οἱ δ' ἀνὰ μὲν κραιπνῶς λαῖφος σπάσαν, ἐκ δὲ βαλόντες
 925 πείσματ' ἐν αἰγιαλῷ Σθενέλου τάφον ἀμφεπένοντο,
 χύτλα τέ οἱ χεύοντο, καὶ ἥγνισαν ἔντομα μήλων.
 ἄνδιχα δ' αὖ χύτλων νηοσσόφῳ Ἀπόλλωνι
 βωμὸν δειμάμενοι μῆρ' ἔφλεγον ἄν δὲ καὶ Ὀρφεὺς
 θῆκε λύρην· ἐκ τοῦ δὲ Λύρη πέλει οὔνομα χώρα.

[911] Next they beheld the barrow of Sthenelus, Actor's son, who on his way back from the valorous war against the Amazons — for he had been the comrade of Heracles — was struck by an arrow and died there upon the sea-

beach. And for a time they went no further, for Persephone herself sent forth the spirit of Actor's son which craved with many tears to behold men like himself, even for a moment. And mounting on the edge of the barrow he gazed upon the ship, such as he was when he went to war; and round his head a fair helm with four peaks gleamed with its blood-red crest. And again he entered the vast gloom; and they looked and marvelled; and Mopsus, son of Ampycus, with word of prophecy urged them to land and propitiate him with libations. Quickly they drew in sail and threw out hawsers, and on the strand paid honour to the tomb of Sthenelus, and poured out drink offerings to him and sacrificed sheep as victims. And besides the drink offerings they built an altar to Apollo, saviour of ships, and burnt thigh bones; and Orpheus dedicated his lyre; whence the place has the name of Lyra.

930 αὐτίκα δ' οἷγ' ἀνέμοιο κατασπέρχοντος ἔβησαν
νῆ' ἔπι: κὰδ δ' ἄρα λαῖφος ἐρυσσάμενοι τανύοντο
ἐς πόδας ἀμφοτέρους: ἡ δ' ἐς πέλαγος πεφόρητο
ἐντενές, ἥντε τίς τε δι' ἡέρος ὑψόθι κίρκος
ταρσὸν ἐφείς πνοιῇ φέρεται ταχύς, οὐδὲ τινάσσει
935 ῥιπὴν, εὐκῆλοισιν ἐνευδιῶν πτερύγεσσιν.
καὶ δὴ Παρθενίῳ ῥοὰς ἀλιμυρήεντος,
πρητυτάτου ποταμοῦ, παρεμέτρεον, ᾧ ἔνι κούρη
Λητωίς, ἄγρηθεν ὅτ' οὐρανὸν εἰσαναβαίνει,
ὄν δέμας ἱμερτοῖσιν ἀναψύχει ὑδάτεσσιν.
940 νυκτί δ' ἔπειτ' ἄλληκτον ἐπιπροτέρωσε θεόντες
σήσαμον αἰπεινούς τε παρεξενέοντ' Ἐρυθίνους,
Κρωβιάλον, Κρώμναν τε καὶ ὕληεντα Κύτωρον.
ἐνθεν δ' αὖτε Κάραμβιν ἄμ' ἡελίοιο βολῇσιν
γνάμψαντες παρὰ πουλὸν ἔπειτ' ἥλαυνον ἐρετμοῖς
945 αἰγιάλῳ πρόπαν ἥμαρ ὁμῶς καὶ ἐπ' ἥματι φύκτα.

[930] And straightway they went aboard as the wind blew strong; and they drew the sail down, and made it taut to both sheets; then Argo was borne over the sea swiftly, even as a hawk soaring high through the air commits to the breeze its outspread wings and is borne on swiftly, nor swerves in its flight, poising in the clear sky with quiet pinions. And lo, they passed by the stream of Parthenius as it flows into the sea, a most gentle river, where the maid, daughter of Leto, when she mounts to heaven after the chase, cools her limbs in its much-desired waters. Then they sped onward in the night without ceasing, and passed Sesamus and lofty Erythini, Crobialus, Cromna and woody Cyturus. Next they swept round Carambis at the rising of the sun, and plied the oars past long Aegialus, all day and on through the night.

αὐτίκα δ' Ἀσσυρίης ἐπέβαν χθονός, ἔνθα Σινώπην,
θυγατέρ' Ἀσωποῖο, καθίσσατο, καὶ οἱ ὅπασσεν
παρθενίην Ζεὺς αὐτός, ὑποσχέσῃσι δολωθεῖς.

δὴ γὰρ ὁ μὲν φιλότῃτος ἐέλδετο· νεῦσε δ' ὄγ' αὐτῇ
 950 δωσέμεναι, ὃ κεν ἦσι μετὰ φρεσὶν ἰθύσειεν.
 ἡ δέ ἐ παρθενίην ἡτήσατο κερδοσύνησιν.
 ὣς δὲ καὶ Ἀπόλλωνα παρήπαφεν εὐνηθῆναι
 ἰέμενον, ποταμόν τ' ἐπὶ τοῖς Ἄλυν· οὐδὲ μὲν ἀνδρῶν
 τήνγε τις ἱμερτῇσιν ἐν ἀγκοίνῃσι δάμασσε·
 955 ἔνθα δὲ Τρικκαίοιο ἀγαυοῦ Δημάχοιο
 υἱες, Δηλέων τε καὶ Αὐτόλυκος Φλογίος τε
 τῆμος ἔθ', Ἡρακλῆος ἀποπλαγχθέντες, ἔναιον·
 οἳ ῥα τόθ', ὥς ἐνόησαν ἀριστήων στόλον ἀνδρῶν,
 σφᾶς αὐτοὺς νημερτὲς ἐπέφραδον ἀντιάσαντες·
 960 οὐδ' ἔτι μιμνᾷζειν θέλον ἔμπεδον, ἀλλ' ἐνὶ νῆι,
 Ἀργέσταο παρᾶσσον ἐπιπνείοντος, ἔβησαν.
 τοῖσι δ' ὁμοῦ μετέπειτα θοῇ πεφορημένοι αὖρῃ
 λείπον Ἄλυν ποταμόν, λείπον δ' ἀγχίρροον Ἴριν,
 ἡδὲ καὶ Ἀσσυρίης πρόχυσιν χθονός· ἥματι δ' αὐτῷ
 965 γνάμψαν Ἀμαζονίδων ἕκαθεν λιμενήοχον ἄκρην.

[946] And straightway they landed on the Assyrian shore where Zeus himself gave a home to Sinope, daughter of Asopus, and granted her virginity, beguiled by his own promises. For he longed for her love, and he promised to grant her whatever her hearts desire might be. And she in her craftiness asked of him virginity. And in like manner she deceived Apollo too who longed to wed her, and besides them the river Halys, and no man ever subdued her in love's embrace. And there the sons of noble Deimachus of Tricca were still dwelling, Deileon, Autolycus and Phlogius, since the day when they wandered far away from Heracles; and they, when they marked the array of chieftains, went to meet them and declared in truth who they were; and they wished to remain there no longer, but as soon as Argestes blew went on ship-board. And so with them, borne along by the swift breeze, the heroes left behind the river Halys, and left behind his that flows hard by, and the delta-land of Assyria; and on the same day they rounded the distant headland of the Amazons that guards their harbour.

ἔνθα ποτὲ προμολοῦσαν Ἀρητιάδα Μελανίπην
 ἥρως Ἡρακλῆς ἐλοχῆσατο, καὶ οἱ ἄποινα
 Ἴππολύτη ζωστήρα παναίολον ἐγγυάλιζεν
 ἀμφὶ κασιγνήτης· ὁ δ' ἀπήμονα πέμψεν ὀπίσσω.
 970 τῆς οἴγ' ἐν κόλπῳ, προχοαῖς ἐπὶ Θερμώδοντος,
 κέλσαν, ἐπεὶ καὶ πόντος ὀρίνετο νισσομένοισιν.
 τῷ δ' οὔτις ποταμῶν ἐναλίκιος, οὐδὲ ῥέεθρα
 τόσσ' ἐπὶ γαῖαν ἦσι παρέξ ἔθεν ἄνδιχα βάλλων.
 τετράκις εἰς ἑκατὸν δευοιτό κεν, εἴ τις ἕκαστα
 975 πεμπάζοι· μία δ' οἷα ἐτήτυμος ἔπλετο πηγῇ.
 ἡ μὲν τ' ἐξ ὀρέων κατανίσσεται ἡπειρόνδε

ὕψηλῶν, ἃ τέ φασιν Ἀμαζόνια κλείεσθαι.
ἐνθεν δ' αἰπυτέρην ἐπικίδναται ἐνδοθι γαῖαν
ἀντικρύ: τῷ καὶ οἱ ἐπίστροφοί εἰσι κέλευθοι:
980 αἰεὶ δ' ἄλλυδις ἄλλη, ὅπη κύρσειε μάλιστα
ἠπείρου χθαμαλῆς, εἰλίσσεται: ἡ μὲν ἄπωθεν,
ἡ δὲ πέλας: πολέες δὲ πόροι νώνυμοι ἕασιν,
ὅππῃ ὑπεξαφύονται: ὁ δ' ἀμφαδὸν ἄμμιγα παύροις
πόντον ἐς Ἄξεινον κυρτὴν ὑπερεύγεται ἄκρην.
985 καὶ νῦ κε δηθύνοντες Ἀμαζονίδεσσιν ἔμιξαν
ὕσμινην, καὶ δ' οὐ κεν ἀναιμωτὶ γ' ἐρίδηναν —
οὐ γὰρ Ἀμαζονίδες μάλ' ἐπήτιδες, οὐδὲ θέμιστας
τίουσai πεδῖον Δοιάντιον ἀμφενέμοντο:
ἀλλ' ὕβρις στονόεσσα καὶ Ἄρεος ἔργα μεμήλει:
990 δὴ γὰρ καὶ γενεὴν ἔσαν Ἄρεος Ἀρμονίης τε
νύμφης, ἣ τ' Ἀρῇ φιλοπτολέμους τέκε κούρας,
ἄλσεος Ἀκμονίοιο κατὰ πτόχας εὐνηθεῖσα —
εἰ μὴ ἄρ' ἐκ Διόθεν πνοιαί πάλιν Ἀργέστοα
ἤλυθον: οἱ δ' ἀνέμῳ περιηγέα κάλλιπον ἀκτὴν,
995 ἔνθα Θεμισκύρειαι Ἀμαζόνες ὠπλίζοντο.
οὐ γὰρ ὀμηγέρες μίαν ἄμ πόλιν, ἀλλ' ἀνὰ γαῖαν
κεκριμέναι κατὰ φῦλα διάτριχα ναιετάασκον:
νόσφι μὲν αἰδ' αὐταί, τῇσιν τότε κοιρανέεσκεν
Ἴππολύτη, νόσφιν δὲ Λυκάστιαι ἀμφενέμοντο,
1000 νόσφι δ' ἀκοντοβόλοι Χαδῆσiai. ἥματι δ' ἄλλῳ
νυκτὶ τ' ἐπιπλομένη Χαλύβων παρὰ γαῖαν ἵκοντο.

[966] Here once when Melanippe, daughter of Ares, had, gone forth, the hero Heracles caught her by ambuscade and Hippolyte gave him her glistening girdle as her sister's ransom, and he sent away his captive unharmed. In the bay of this headland, at the outfall of Thermodon, they ran ashore, for the sea was rough for their voyage. No river is like this, and none sends forth from itself such mighty streams over the land. If a man should count every one he would lack but four of a hundred, but the real spring is only one. This flows down to the plain from lofty mountains, which, men say, are called the Amazonian mountains. Thence it spreads inland over a hilly country straight forward; wherefrom its streams go winding on, and they roll on, this way and that ever more, wherever best they can reach the lower ground, one at a distance and another near at hand; and many streams are swallowed up in the sand and are without a name; but, mingled with a few, the main stream openly bursts with its arching crest of foam into the inhospitable Pontus. And they would have tarried there and have closed in battle with the Amazons, and would have fought not without bloodshed for the Amazons were not gentle foes and regarded not justice, those dwellers on the Doeantian plain; but grievous insolence and the works of Ares were all their care; for by race they were the daughters of Ares and the nymph Harmonia, who bare to Ares war-

loving maids, wedded to him in the glens of the Acmonian wood had not the breezes of Argestes come again from Zeus; and with the wind they left the rounded beach, where the Themiscyreian Amazons were arming for war. For they dwelt not gathered together in one city, but scattered over the land, parted into three tribes. In one part dwelt the Themiscyreians, over whom at that time Hippolyte reigned, in another the Lycastians, and in another the dart-throwing Chadesians. And the next day they sped on and at nightfall they reached the land of the Chalybes.

τοῖσι μὲν οὔτε βοῶν ἄροτος μέλει, οὔτε τις ἄλλη
φυταλιὴ καρποῖο μελίφρονος· οὐδὲ μὲν οἶγε
ποίμνας ἐρσήεντι νομῷ ἔνι ποιμαίνουσιν.

1005 ἄλλὰ σιδηροφόρον στυφελὴν χθόνα γατομέοντες
ῶνον ἀμείβονται βιοτήσιον, οὐδέ ποτέ σφιν
ἤως ἀντέλλει καμάτων ἄτερ, ἀλλὰ κελαινῇ
λιγνύι καὶ καπνῷ κάματον βαρὺν ὀτλεύουσιν.

[1002] That folk have no care for ploughing with oxen or for any planting of honey-sweet fruit; nor yet do they pasture flocks in the dewy meadow. But they cleave the hard iron-bearing land and exchange their wages for daily sustenance; never does the morn rise for them without toil, but amid bleak sooty flames and smoke they endure heavy labour.

τοὺς δὲ μετ' αὐτίκ' ἔπειτα Γενηταίου Διὸς ἄκρην
1010 γνάμψαντες σώοντο παρὲκ Τιβαρηνίδα γαῖαν.
ἔνθ' ἐπεὶ ἄρ κε τέκωνται ὑπ' ἀνδράσι τέκνα γυναικες,
αὐτοὶ μὲν στενάχουσιν ἐνὶ λεχέεσσι πεσόντες,
κράατα δησάμενοι· ται δ' εὖ κομέουσιν ἐδωδῇ
ἀνέρας, ἡδὲ λοετρὰ λεχώια τοῖσι πένονται.

[1009] And straightway thereafter they rounded the headland of Genetaean Zeus and sped safely past the land of the Tibareni. Here when wives bring forth children to their husbands, the men lie in bed and groan with their heads close bound; but the women tend them with food, and prepare child-birth baths for them.

1015 ἱρὸν δ' αὖτ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ὄρος καὶ γαῖαν ἄμειβον,
ἥ ἔνι Μοσσύνοικοι ἄν' οὔρεα ναιετάουσιν
μόσσυνας, καὶ δ' αὐτοὶ ἐπώνυμοι ἔνθεν ἔασιν.
ἄλλοίη δὲ δίκη καὶ θέσμια τοῖσι τέτυκται.
ὅσσα μὲν ἀμφαδίην ρέζειν θέμις, ἥ ἐνὶ δήμῳ,
1020 ἥ ἀγορῇ, τάδε πάντα δόμοις ἔνι μηχανόωνται·
ὅσσα δ' ἐνὶ μεγάροις πεπονήμεθα, κεῖνα θύραζε
ἀνεγέως μέσσησιν ἐνὶ ρέζουσιν ἀγνυαῖς.
οὐδ' εὐνῆς αἰδῶς ἐπιδήμιος, ἀλλὰ, σύες ὧς
φορβάδες, οὐδ' ἡβαιὸν ἀτυζόμενοι παρεόντας,

1025 μίσγονται χαμάδις ξυνῇ φιλότῃ γυναικῶν.
αὐτὰρ ἐν ὑψίστῳ βασιλεὺς μόσσυνι θαάσσων
ἰθείας πολέεσσι δίκας λαοῖσι δικάζει,
σχέτλιος. ἦν γάρ πού τί θεμιστεύων ἀλίτῃται,
λιμῶ μιν κεῖν' ἡμάρ ἐνικλείσαντες ἔχουσιν.

[1015] Next they reached the sacred mount and the land where the Mossynoeci dwell amid high mountains in wooden huts, from which that people take their name. And strange are their customs and laws. Whatever it is right to do openly before the people or in the market place, all this they do in their homes, but whatever acts we perform at home, these they perform out of doors in the midst of the streets, without blame. And among them is no reverence for the marriage-bed, but, like swine that feed in herds, no whit abashed in others' presence, on the earth they lie with the women. Their king sits in the loftiest hut and dispenses upright judgments to the multitude, poor wretch! For if haply he err at all in his decrees, for that day they keep him shut up in starvation.

1030 τοὺς παρانیσσομενοὶ καὶ δὴ σχεδὸν ἀντιπέρηθεν
νήσου Ἀρητιάδος τέμνον πλόον εἰρεσίῃσιν
ἡμάτιοι· λιὰρὴ γὰρ ὑπὸ κνέφας ἔλλιπεν αὐρῇ.
ἤδη καὶ τιν' ὑπερθεὺς Ἀρήιον αἴσسونτα

ἐνναέτην νήσοιο δι' ἡέρος ὄρνιν ἴδοντο,
1035 ὃς ῥα τιναζάμενος πτέρυγας κατὰ νῆα θέουσας
ἦκ' ἐπὶ οἱ περὸν ὀξύ· τὸ δ' ἐν λαιῷ πέσεν ὦμον
δίου Ὀυλῆος· μεθέηκε δὲ χερσὶν ἐρετμὸν
βλήμενος· οἱ δὲ τάφον περὸν βέλος εἰσορόωντες.

καὶ τὸ μὲν ἐξείρυσσε παρεδριῶν Ἐρυβώτης,
1040 ἔλκος δὲ ξυνέδησεν, ἀπὸ σφετέρου κολεοῖο
λυσάμενος τελαμῶνα κατήγορον· ἐκ δ' ἐφαάνθη
ἄλλος ἐπὶ προτέρῳ πεποτημένος· ἀλλὰ μιν ἦρος
Εὐρυτιδῆς Κλυτίος — πρὸ γὰρ ἀγκύλα τείνατο τόξα,
ἦκε δ' ἐπ' οἰωνὸν ταχινὸν βέλος — αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα

1045 πλῆξεν· δινηθεὶς δὲ θοῆς πέσεν ἀγχόθι νηός.
τοῖσιν δ' Ἀμφιδάμας μυθήσατο, παῖς Ἀλεοῖο:

[1030] They passed them by and cleft their way with oars over against the island of Ares all day long; for at dusk the light breeze left them. At last they spied above them, hurtling through the air, one of the birds of Ares which haunt that isle. It shook its wings down over the ship as she sped on and sent against her a keen feather, and it fell on the left shoulder of goodly Oileus, and he dropped his oar from his hands at the sudden blow, and his comrades marvelled at the sight of the winged bolt. And Eribotes from his seat hard by drew out the feather, and bound up the wound when he had loosed the strap hanging from his own sword-sheath; and besides the first, another bird

appeared swooping down; but the hero Clytius, son of Eurytus — for he bent his curved bow, and sped a swift arrow against the bird — struck it, and it whirled round and fell close to the ship. And to them spake Amphidamas, son of Aleus:

‘νήσος μὲν πέλας ἤμιν Ἀρητιάς: ἴστε καὶ αὐτοὶ
τούσδ’ ὄρνιθας ἰδόντες. ἐγὼ δ’ οὐκ ἔλπομαι ἰούσ
τόσσον ἐπαρκέσσειν εἰς ἔκβασιν. ἀλλὰ τιν’ ἄλλην
1050 μῆτιν πορσύνωμεν ἐπίρροθον, εἴ γ’ ἐπικέλσαι
μέλλετε, Φινῆος μεμνημένοι, ὥς ἐπέτελλεν.
οὐδὲ γὰρ Ἡρακλῆς, ὁπότε ἤλυθεν Ἀρκαδίηνδε,
πλωΐδας ὄρνιθας Στυμφαλίδας ἔσθενε λίμνης
ὥσασθαι τόξοισι, τὸ μὲν τ’ ἐγὼ αὐτὸς ὅπωπα.
1055 ἀλλ’ ὄγε χαλκείην πλατάγην ἐνὶ χερσὶ τινάσσων
δούπει ἐπὶ σκοπιῆς περιμήκεος: αἱ δ’ ἐφέβοντο
τηλοῦ, ἀτυζηλῶ ὑπὸ δείματι κεκληγυῖται.
τῷ καὶ νῦν τοίην τιν’ ἐπιφραζώμεθα μῆτιν:
αὐτὸς δ’ ἂν τὸ πάροιθεν ἐπιφρασθεῖς ἐνέποιμι.
1060 ἀνθέμενοι κεφαλῇσιν ἀερσιλόφους τρυφαλείας,
ἡμίσεες μὲν ἐρέσσετ’ ἀμοιβαδῖς, ἡμίσεες δὲ
δούρασί τε ξυστοῖσι καὶ ἀσπίσιν ἄρσετε νῆα.
αὐτὰρ πασσυδίῃ περιώσιον ὄρνυτ’ αὐτὴν
ἄθροοι, ὄφρα κολῶδὸν ἀηθείῃ φοβέωνται
1065 νεύοντάς τε λόφους καὶ ἐπήορα δούραθ’ ὕπερθεν.
εἰ δέ κεν αὐτὴν νῆσον ἰκώμεθα, δὴ τότε ἔπειτα
σὺν κελάδῳ σακέεσσι πελώριον ὄρσετε δοῦπον.’

[1047] “The island of Ares is near us; you know it yourselves now that ye have seen these birds. But little will arrows avail us, I trow, for landing. But let us contrive some other device to help us, if ye intend to land, bearing in mind the injunction of Phineus. For not even could Heracles, when he came to Arcadia, drive away with bow and arrow the birds that swam on the Stymphalian lake. I saw it myself. But he shook in his hand a rattle of bronze and made a loud clatter as he stood upon a lofty peak, and the birds fled far off, screeching in bewildered fear. Wherefore now too let us contrive some such device, and I myself will speak, having pondered the matter beforehand. Set on your heads your helmets of lofty crest, then half row by turns, and half fence the ship about with polished spears and shields. Then all together raise a mighty shout so that the birds may be scared by the unwonted din, the nodding crests, and the uplifted spears on high. And if we reach the island itself, then make mighty noise with the clashing of shields.”

ὥς ἄρ’ ἔφη: πάντεσσι δ’ ἐπίρροθος ἦνδανε μῆτις.
ἀμφὶ δὲ χαλκείας κόρυθας κεφαλῇσιν ἔθεντο
1070 δεινὸν λαμπομένας, ἐπὶ δὲ λόφοι ἐσσεῖοντο

φοινίκεοι. καὶ τοὶ μὲν ἀμοιβήδην ἐλάσκον·
τοὶ δ' αὖτ' ἐγγείησι καὶ ἀσπίσι νῆ' ἐκάλυψαν.
ὥς δ' ὅτε τις κεράμῳ κατερέψεται ἑρκίον ἀνὴρ,
δόματος ἀγλαΐην τε καὶ ὕετοῦ ἔμμεναι ἄλκαρ,
1075 ἄλλῳ δ' ἔμπεδον ἄλλος ὁμῶς ἐπαμοιβὸς ἄρηεν·
ὧς οἷγ' ἀσπίσι νῆα συναρτύναντες ἔρεψαν.
οἷη δὲ κλαγγὴ δῆου πέλει ἐξ ὁμάδοιο
ἀνδρῶν κινυμένων, ὁπότε ξυνίωσι φάλαγγες,
τοίη ἄρ' ὑπόθι νηὸς ἐς ἡέρα κίδνατ' αὐτή.
1080 οὐδέ τιν' οἰωνῶν ἔτ' ἐσέδρακον, ἀλλ' ὅτε νήσω
χρίμψαντες σακέεσσιν ἐπέκτυπον, αὐτίκ' ἄρ' οἷγε
μυρίοι ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα πεφυζότες ἠερέθοντο.
ὥς δ' ὁπότε Κρονίδης πυκινὴν ἐφέηκε χάλαζαν
ἐκ νεφέων ἀνά τ' ἄστρῳ καὶ οἰκίᾳ, τοὶ δ' ὑπὸ τοῖσιν
1085 ἐνναέται κόναβον τεγέων ὕπερ εἰσαΐοντες
ἦνται ἀκὴν, ἐπεὶ οὐ σφε κατέλλαβε χεῖματος ὥρη
ἀπροφάτως, ἀλλὰ πρὶν ἐκαρτύναντο μέλαθρον·
ὧς πυκινὰ πτερὰ τοῖσιν ἐφίεσαν ἀίσσοντες
ὑψι μάλ' ἄμ πέλαγος περάτης εἰς οὖρεα γαίης.

[1068] Thus he spake, and the helpful device pleased all. And on their heads they placed helmets of bronze, gleaming terribly, and the blood-red crests were tossing. And half of them rowed in turn, and the rest covered the ship with spears and shields. And as when a man roofs over a house with tiles, to be an ornament of his home and a defence against rain, and one the fits firmly into another, each after each; so they roofed over the ship with their shields, locking them together. And as a din arises from a warrior-host of men sweeping on, when lines of battle meet, such a shout rose upward from the ship into the air. Now they saw none of the birds yet, but when they touched the island and clashed upon their shields, then the birds in countless numbers rose in flight hither and thither. And as when the son of Cronos sends from the clouds a dense hailstorm on city and houses, and the people who dwell beneath hear the din above the roof and sit quietly, since the stormy season has not come upon them unawares, but they have first made strong their roofs; so the birds sent against the heroes a thick shower of feather-shafts as they darted over the sea to the mountains of the land opposite.

1090 τίς γάρ δὴ Φινῆος ἔην νόος, ἐνθάδε κέλσαι
ἀνδρῶν ἡρώων θεῖον στόλον; ἢ καὶ ἔπειτα
ποῖον ὄνειρα ἔμελλεν ἐελδομένοισιν ἰκέσθαι;
υἷης Φρίξοιο μετὰ πτόλιν Ὀρχομενοῖο
ἐξ Αἴης ἐνέοντο παρ' Αἰήταο Κυταίου,
1095 Κολχίδα νῆ' ἐπιβάντες, ἴν' ἄσπετον ὄλβον ἄρωνται
πατρός; ὁ γὰρ θνήσκων ἐπετείλατο τήνδε κέλευθον.
καὶ δὴ ἔσαν νήσοιο μάλα σχεδὸν ἡματι κείνῳ.

Ζεὺς δ' ἀνέμου βορέας μένος κίνησεν ἄησαι,
 ὕδατι σημαίνων διερὴν ὁδὸν Ἀρκτούριοιο:
 1100 αὐτὰρ ὄγ' ἡμάτιος μὲν ἐν οὔρεσι φύλλ' ἐτίνασσαν
 τυτθὸν ἐπ' ἀκροτάτοισιν ἀήσυρος ἀκρεμόνεσσιν:
 νυκτι δ' ἔβη πόντονδε πελώριος, ὥρσε δὲ κύμα
 κεκληγῶς πνοιῆσι: κελαινὴ δ' οὐρανὸν ἀχλὺς
 ἄμπεχεν, οὐδὲ πη ἄστρα διαυγέα φαίνετ' ἰδέσθαι
 1105 ἐκ νεφέων, σκοτόεις δὲ περὶ ζόφος ἠρήρειστο.
 οἱ δ' ἄρα μυδαλέοι, στυγερὸν τρομέοντες ὄλεθρον,
 υἱῆς Φρίξιοιο φέρονθ' ὑπὸ κύμασιν αὐτως.
 ἰστία δ' ἐξήρπαξ' ἀνέμου μένος, ἡδὲ καὶ αὐτὴν
 νῆα διάνδιχ' ἔαξε τινασσομένην ῥοθίοισιν.
 1110 ἔνθα δ' ὑπ' ἐννεσίησι θεῶν πίσυρές περ ἐόντες
 δούρατος ὠρέξαντο πελωρίου, οἷά τε πολλὰ
 ῥαισθείσης κεκέδαστο θόοις συναρηρότα γόμοις.
 καὶ τοὺς μὲν νῆσόνδε, παρὲξ ὀλίγον θανάτιοι,
 κύματα καὶ ῥίπαι ἀνέμου φέρον ἀσχαλόωντας.
 1115 αὐτίκα δ' ἐρράγη ὄμβρος ἀθέσφατος, ὕε δὲ πόντον
 καὶ νῆσον καὶ πᾶσαν ὄσιν κατεναντία νήσου
 χώραν Μοσσύνοικοι ὑπέρβιοι ἀμφενέμοντο.
 τοὺς δ' ἄμυδις κρατερῶ σὺν δούρατι κύματος ὀρμῇ
 υἱῆς Φρίξιοιο μετ' ἠιόνας βάλε νήσου
 1120 νύχθ' ὕπο λυγαίνῃ: τὸ δὲ μυρίον ἐκ Διὸς ὕδωρ
 λῆξεν ἅμ' ἡελίῳ: τάχα δ' ἐγγύθεν ἀντεβόλησαν
 ἀλλήλοισι, Ἄργος δὲ παροίτατος ἔκφατο μῦθον:
 'Ἀντόμεθα πρὸς Ζηνὸς Ἐποψίου, οἵτινές ἐστε
 ἀνδρῶν, εὐμενέειν τε καὶ ἀρκέσσαι χατέουσιν.
 1125 πόντῳ γὰρ τρηχεῖαι ἐπιβρίσασαι ἄελλαι
 νηὸς ἀεικελὴς διὰ δούρατα πάντ' ἐκέδασσαν,
 ἧ ἔνι πείρομεν οἶμον ἐπὶ χρέος ἐμβεβαῶτες.
 τούνεκα νῦν ὑμέας γουναζόμεθ', αἷ κε πίθησθε,
 δοῦναι ὅσον τ' εἴλυμα περὶ χροός, ἡδὲ κομίσσαι
 1130 ἀνέρας οἰκτείραντας ὁμήλικας ἐν κακότητι.
 ἀλλ' ἰκέτας ξείνους Διὸς εἵνεκεν αἰδέσασσασθε
 ξεινίου Ἰκεσίου τε: Διὸς δ' ἅμφω ἰκέται τε
 καὶ ξεῖνοι: ὁ δὲ που καὶ ἐπόπιος ἅμμι τέτυκται.'

[1090] What then was the purpose of Phineus in bidding the divine band of heroes land there? Or what kind of help was about to meet their desire? The sons of Phrixus were faring towards the city of Orchomenus from Aea, coming from Cytaean Aetes, on board a Colchian ship, to win the boundless wealth of their father; for he, when dying, had enjoined this journey upon them. And lo, on that day they were very near that island. But Zeus had impelled the north wind's might to blow, marking by rain the moist path of Arcturus, and all day long he was stirring the leaves upon the mountains,

breathing gently upon the topmost sprays; but at night he rushed upon the sea with monstrous force, and with his shrieking blasts uplifted the surge; and a dark mist covered the heavens, nor did the bright stars anywhere appear from among the clouds, but a murky gloom brooded all around. And so the sons of Phrixus, drenched and trembling in fear of a horrible doom, were borne along by the waves helplessly. And the force of the wind had snatched away their sails and shattered in twain the hull, tossed as it was by the breakers. And hereupon by heaven's prompting those four clutched a huge beam, one of many that were scattered about, held together by sharp bolts, when the ship broke to pieces. And on to the island the waves and the blasts of wind bore the men in their distress, within a little of death. And straightway a mighty rain burst forth, and rained upon the sea and the island, and all the country opposite the island, where the arrogant Mossynoeci dwelt. And the sweep of the waves hurled the sons of Phrixus, together with their massy beam, upon the beach of the island, in the murky night; and the floods of rain from Zeus ceased at sunrise, and soon the two bands drew near and met each other, and Argus spoke first: "We beseech you, by Zeus the Beholder, whoever ye are, to be kindly and to help us in our need. For fierce tempests, falling on the sea, have shattered all the timbers of the crazy ship in which we were cleaving our path on business bent. Wherefore we entreat you, if haply ye will listen, to grant us just a covering for our bodies, and to pity and succour men in misfortune, your equals in age. Oh, reverence suppliants and strangers for Zeus' sake, the god of strangers and suppliants. To Zeus belong both suppliants and strangers; and his eye, methinks, beholdeth even us."

τὸν δ' αὖτ' Αἴσονος υἱὸς ἐπιφραδέως ἐρέεινεν,
1135 μαντοσύνας Φινῆος οἰσσύμενος τελέεσθαι·
‘ταῦτα μὲν αὐτίκα πάντα παρέζομεν εὐμενέοντες.
ἀλλ’ ἄγε μοι κατάλεξον ἐτήτυμον, ὅππῃθι γαίης
ναίετε, καὶ χρέος οἷον ὑπεῖρ ἄλλα νεῖσθαι ἀνώγει,
αὐτῶν θ’ ὑμείων ὄνομα κλυτὸν, ἥδὲ γενέθλην.’

[1134] And in reply the son of Aeson prudently questioned him, deeming that the prophecies of Phineus were being fulfilled: "All these things will we straightway grant you with right good will. But come tell me truly in what country ye dwell and what business bids you sail across the sea, and tell me your own glorious names and lineage."

1140 τὸν δ' Ἄργος προσέειπεν ἀμηχανέων κακότητι·
‘Αἰολίδην Φρίξον τιν’ ἀφ’ Ἑλλάδος Αἴαν ἰκέσθαι
ἀτρεκέως δοκέω που ἀκούετε καὶ πάρος αὐτοί,
Φρίξον, ὅτις πτολίεθρον ἀνήλυθεν Αἰήταο,
κριοῦ ἐπεμβεβαώς, τὸν ῥα χρύσειον ἔθηκεν
1145 Ἑρμείας· κῶας δὲ καὶ εἰσέτι νῦν κεν ἴδοισθε.
τὸν μὲν ἔπειτ’ ἔρρεξεν ἐῆς ὑποθημοσύνησιν

Φυξίω ἐκ πάντων Κρονίδῃ Διί. καί μιν ἔδεκτο
 Αἰήτης μεγάρῳ, κούρην τέ οἱ ἐγγυάλιξεν
 Χαλκιοπὴν ἀνάεδνον εὐφροσύνησι νόοιο.
 1150 τῶν ἐξ ἀμφοτέρων εἰμὲν γένος. ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν ἤδη
 γηραιὸς θάνε Φρίξος ἐν Λιήτῳ δόμοισιν·
 ἡμεῖς δ' αὐτίκα πατρὸς ἐφετμάων ἀλέγοντες
 νεύμεθ' ἐς Ὀρχομενὸν κτεάνων Ἀθάμαντος ἐκῆτι.
 εἰ δὲ καὶ οὔνομα δῆθεν ἐπιθύεις δεδαῆσθαι,
 1155 τῷδε Κυτίσσωρος πέλει οὔνομα, τῷ δέ τε Φρόντις,
 τῷ δὲ Μέλας· ἐμὲ δ' αὐτὸν ἐπικλείοιτέ κεν Ἄργον.'

[1140] And him Argus, helpless in his evil plight, addressed: "That one Phrixus an Aeolid reached Aea from Hellas you yourselves have clearly heard ere this, I trow; Phrixus, who came to the city of Aeetes, bestriding a ram, which Hermes had made all gold; and the fleece ye may see even now. The ram, at its own prompting, he then sacrificed to Zeus, son of Cronos, above all, the god of fugitives. And him did Aeetes receive in his palace, and with gladness of heart gave him his daughter Chalciopē in marriage without gifts of wooing. From those two are we sprung. But Phrixus died at last, an aged man, in the home of Aeetes; and we, giving heed to our father's behests, are journeying to Orehomenus to take the possessions of Athamas. And if thou dost desire to learn our names, this is Cytissorus, this Phrontis, and this Melas, and me ye may call Argus."

ὧς φάτ'· ἀριστῆες δὲ συνηβολίῃ κεχάροντο,
 καὶ σφεας ἀμφίεπον περιθαμβέες. αὐτὰρ Ἴησων
 ἐξαυτίς κατὰ μοῖραν ἀμείψατο τοῖσδ' ἐπέεσσιν·
 1160 'ἦ ἄρα δὴ γνωτοὶ πατρώιοι ἄμμιν ἐόντες
 λίσσεσθ' εὐμενέοντας ἐπαρκέσσαι κακότητα.
 Κρηθεὺς γάρ ῥ' Ἀθάμας τε κασίγνητοι γεγάασιν.
 Κρηθῆος δ' υἱὸνός ἐγὼ σὺν τοισίδ' ἐταίροις
 Ἑλλάδος ἐξ αὐτῆς νέομ' ἐς πόλιν Αἰήτῳ.
 1165 ἀλλὰ τὰ μὲν καὶ αὐτίς ἐνίφομεν ἀλλήλοισιν.
 νῦν δ' ἔσσωσθε πάροιθεν· ὑπ' ἐννεσίῃσι δ' οἴω
 ἀθανάτων ἐς χεῖρας ἐμὰς χατέοντας ἰκέσθαι.'

[1157] Thus he spake, and the chieftains rejoiced at the meeting, and tended them, much marvelling. And Jason again in turn replied, as was fitting, with these words: "Surely ye are our kinsmen on my father's side, and ye pray that with kindly hearts we succour your evil plight. For Cretheus and Athamas were brothers. I am the grandson of Cretheus, and with these comrades here I am journeying from that same Hellas to the city of Aeetes. But of these things we will converse hereafter. And do ye first put clothing upon you. By heaven's devising, I ween, have ye come to my hands in your sore need."

ἦ ῥα, καὶ ἐκ νηὸς δῶκέ σφισιν εἵματα δῦναι.

πασσυδίῃ δῆπειτα κίον μετὰ νηὸν Ἄρηος,
 1170 μῆλ' ἱερουσόμενοι· περὶ δ' ἐσχάρῃ ἐστήσαντο
 ἐσσυμένως, ἥ τ' ἐκτὸς ἀνηρεφὸς πέλε νηοῦ
 στιάων· εἴσω δὲ μέλας λίθος ἡρήρειστο
 ἱερός, ὃ ποτε πᾶσαι Ἀμαζόνες εὐχετόωντο.
 οὐδὲ σφιν θέμις ἦεν, ὅτ' ἀντιπέρηθεν ἴκοιντο,
 1175 μήλων τ' ἠδὲ βοῶν τῇδ' ἐσχάρῃ ἱερὰ καίειν·
 ἀλλ' ἵππους daίτρευον, ἐπηετανὸν κομέουσαι.
 αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ ῥέξαντες ἐπαρτέα daίτ' ἐπάσαντο,
 δῆ τότε ἄρ' Αἰσονίδης μετεφώνεεν, ἥρχε τε μύθων·
 'Ζεὺς ἐτέῃ τὰ ἕκαστ' ἐπιδέρεται· οὐδέ μιν ἄνδρες
 1180 λήθομεν ἔμπεδον, οἳ τε θεοῦδέες οὐδὲ δίκαιοι.
 ὥς μὲν γὰρ πατέρ' ὑμὸν ὑπεξεῖρυτο φόνοιο
 μητρυιῆς, καὶ νόσφιν ἀπειρέσιον πόρεν ὄλβον·
 ὥς δὲ καὶ ὑμέας αὖτις ἀπήμονας ἐξεσάωσεν
 χείματος οὐλομένοιο· πάρεστι δὲ τῇσδ' ἐπὶ νηὸς
 1185 ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα νέεσθαι, ὅπη φίλον, εἴτε μετ' Αἴαν,
 εἴτε μετ' ἀφνειὴν θείου πόλιν Ὀρχομενοῖο.
 τὴν γὰρ Ἀθηναίη τεχνήσατο, καὶ τάμε χαλκῷ
 δοῦρατα Πηλιάδος κορυφῆς πέρι· σὺν δέ οἱ Ἄργος
 τεύξεν· ἀτὰρ κείνην γε κακὸν διὰ κῦμ' ἐκέδασσεν,
 1190 πρὶν καὶ πετράων σχεδὸν ἐλθεῖν, αἶ τ' ἐνὶ πόντῳ
 στενωπῷ συνίασι πανήμεροι ἀλλήλησιν.
 ἀλλ' ἄγεθ' ὧδε καὶ αὐτοὶ ἐς Ἑλλάδα μαιομένοισιν
 κῶας ἄγειν χρύσειον ἐπίρροθοι ἄμμι πέλεσθε
 καὶ πλόου ἡγεμονῆες, ἐπεὶ Φρίξοιο θυηλὰς
 1195 στέλλομαι ἀμπλήσω, Ζηνὸς χόλον Αἰολίδησιν.'

[1168] He spake, and out of the ship gave them raiment to put on. Then all together they went to the temple of Ares to offer sacrifice of sheep; and in haste they stood round the altar, which was outside the roofless temple, an altar built of pebbles; within a black stone stood fixed, a sacred thing, to which of yore the Amazons all used to pray. Nor was it lawful for them, when they came from the opposite coast, to burn on this altar offerings of sheep and oxen, but they used to slay horses which they kept in great herds. Now when they had sacrificed and eaten the feast prepared, then Aeson's son spake among them and thus began: "Zeus' self, I ween, beholds everything; nor do we men escape his eye, we that be god-fearing and just, for as he rescued your father from the hands of a murderous step-dame and gave him measureless wealth besides; even so hath he saved you harmless from the baleful storm. And on board this ship ye may sail hither and thither, where ye will, whether to Aea or to the wealthy city of divine Orthomenus. For our ship Athena built and with axe of bronze cut her timbers near the crest of Pelion, and with the goddess wrought Argus. But yours the fierce surge hath shattered, before ye came nigh to the rocks which all day long clash together in the straits of the

sea. But come, be yourselves our helpers, for we are eager to bring to Hellas the golden fleece, and guide us on our voyage, for I go to atone for the intended sacrifice of Phrixus, the cause of Zeus' wrath against the sons of Aeolus."

ἴσκε παρηγορέων· οἱ δ' ἔστυγον εἰσαῖοντες.
οὐ γὰρ ἔφαν τεύξεσθαι ἐνὲος Αἰήταο
κῶας ἄγειν κριοῖο μεμαότας, ὧδε δ' ἔειπεν
Ἄργος, ἀτεμβόμενος τοῖον στόλον ἀμφιπένεσθαι·
ᾧ φίλοι, ἡμέτερον μὲν ὅσον σθένος, οὔ ποτ' ἄρωγῃς
σχήσεται, οὐδ' ἡβαιόν, ὅτε χρειῶ τις ἵκηται.
ἀλλ' αἰνῶς ὀλοῇσιν ἀπηνείησιν ἄρηρεν
Αἰήτης· τῷ καὶ περιδείδια ναυτίλλεσθαι.
στεῦται δ' Ἥελίου γόνος ἔμμεναι· ἀμφὶ δὲ Κόλχων
1205 ἔθνεα ναιετάουσιν ἀπείρονα· καὶ δέ κεν Ἄρει
σμερδαλήν ἐνοπὴν μέγα τε σθένος ἰσοφαρίζοι.
οὐ μὰν οὐδ' ἀπάνευθεν ἐλεῖν δέρος Αἰήταο
ῥήϊδιον, τοῖός μιν ὄφρις περὶ τ' ἀμφὶ τ' ἔρυται
ἄθάνατος καὶ ἄνπνος, ὃν αὐτὴ Γαῖ' ἀνέφυσεν
1210 Καυκάσου ἐν κνημοῖσι, Τυφαιονίῃ ὅθι πέτρῃ,
ἐνθα Τυφαιόνα φασὶ Διὸς Κρονίδαο κεραυνῷ
βλήμενον, ὁππότε οἱ στιβαρὰς ἐπορέξατο χεῖρας,
θερμὸν ἀπὸ κρατὸς στάζει φόνον· ἵκετο δ' αὐτῶς
οὔρεα καὶ πεδῖον Νυσηῖον, ἐνθ' ἔτι νῦν περ
1215 κεῖται ὑποβρύχιος Σερβωνίδος ὕδασι λίμνης."

[1196] He spake with soothing words; but horror seized them when they heard. For they deemed that they would not find Aeetes friendly if they desired to take away the ram's fleece. And Argus spake as follows, vexed that they should busy themselves with such a quest: "My friends, our strength, so far as it avails, shall never cease to help you, not one whit, when need shall come. But Aeetes is terribly armed with deadly ruthlessness; wherefore exceedingly do I dread this voyage. And he boasts himself to be the son of Helios; and all round dwell countless tribes of Colchians; and he might match himself with Ares in his dread war-cry and giant strength. Nay, to seize the fleece in spite of Aeetes is no easy task; so huge a serpent keeps guard round and about it, deathless and sleepless, which Earth herself brought forth on the sides of Caucasus, by the rock of Typhaon, where Typhaon, they say, smitten by the bolt of Zeus, son of Cronos, when he lifted against the god his sturdy hands, dropped from his head hot gore; and in such plight he reached the mountains and plain of Nysa, where to this day he lies whelmed beneath the waters of the Serbonian lake."

ὧς ἄρ' ἔφη· πολέεσσι δ' ἐπὶ χλόος εἴλε παρειὰς
αὐτίκα, τοῖον ἄεθλον ὅτ' ἔκλυον. αἶψα δὲ Πηλεὺς

θαρσαλέοις ἐπέεσσιν ἀμείψατο, φώνησέν τε:
‘μηδ’ οὕτως, ἡθεῖε, λίην δειδίσσεο θυμῷ.
1220 οὔτε γὰρ ᾧδ’ ἀλκὴν ἐπιδευόμεθ’, ὥστε χερεῖους
ἔμμεναι Αἰήταο σὺν ἔντεσι πειρηθῆναι.
ἀλλὰ καὶ ἡμέας οἷω ἐπισταμένους πολέμοιο
κεῖσε μολεῖν, μακάρων σχεδὸν αἵματος ἐκγεγαῶτας.
τῷ εἰ μὴ φιλότῃτι δέρος χρύσειον ὀπάσσει,
1225 οὐ οἱ χραισμήσειν ἐπέλπομαι ἔθνεα Κόλχων.’

[1216] Thus he spake, and straightway many a cheek grew pale when they heard of so mighty an adventure. But quickly Peleus answered with cheering words, and thus spake: “Be not so fearful in spirit, my good friend. For we are not so lacking in prowess as to be no match for Aeetes to try his strength with arms; but I deem that we too are cunning in war, we that go thither, near akin to the blood of the blessed gods. Wherefore if he will not grant us the fleece of gold for friendship’s sake, the tribes of the Colchians will not avail him, I ween.”

ὥς οἱγ’ ἀλλήλοισιν ἀμοιβαδὸν ἡγορόωντο,
μέσφ’ αὖτις δόρποιο κορεσσάμενοι κατέδαρθεν.
ἦρι δ’ ἀνεγρομένοισιν ἐυκραῆς ἄεν οὔρος:
ἰστία δ’ ἤειραν, τὰ δ’ ὑπαὶ ῥιπῆς ἀνέμοιο
1230 τείνετο: ῥίμφα δὲ νῆσον ἀποπροέλειπον Ἄρηος.

[1226] Thus they addressed each other in turn, until again, satisfied with their feast, they turned to rest. And when they rose at dawn a gentle breeze was blowing; and they raised the sails, which strained to the rush of the wind, and quickly they left behind the island of Ares.

νυκτὶ δ’ ἐπιπλομένη Φιλυρηίδα νῆσον ἄμειβον:
ἔνθα μὲν Οὐρανίδης Φιλύρη Κρόνος, εὖτ’ ἐν Ὀλύμπῳ
Τιτήνων ἦνασσαν, ὃ δὲ Κρηταῖον ὑπ’ ἄντρον
Ζεὺς ἔτι Κουρήτεσσι μετετρέφετ’ Ἰδαίοισιν,
1235 Ῥεῖην ἐξαπαφὼν παρελέξατο: τοὺς δ’ ἐνὶ λέκτροις
τέτμε θεὰ μεσσηγύς: ὃ δ’ ἐξ εὐνῆς ἀνορούσας
ἔσσυτο χαιτήεντι φυὴν ἐναλίγκιος ἵππῳ:
ἡ δ’ αἰδοῖ χώρόν τε καὶ ἤθεα κεῖνα λιποῦσα
Ὠκεανὶς Φιλύρη εἰς οὔρεα μακρὰ Πελασγῶν
1240 ἦλθ’, ἵνα δὴ Χεῖρωνα πελώριον, ἄλλα μὲν ἵππῳ,
ἄλλα θεῷ ἀτάλαντον, ἀμοιβαίῃ τέκεν εὐνῇ.

[1231] And at nightfall they came to the island of Philyra, where Cronos, son of Uranus, what time in Olympus he reigned over the Titans, and Zeus was yet being nurtured in a Cretan cave by the Curetes of Ida, lay beside Philyra, when he had deceived Rhea; and the goddess found them in the midst of their dalliance; and Cronos leapt up from the couch with a rush in the form of a steed with flowing mane, but Ocean’s daughter, Philyra, in shame left the spot

and those haunts, and came to the long Pelasgian ridges, where by her union with the transfigured deity she brought forth huge Cheiron, half like a horse, half like a god.

κεῖθεν δ' αὖ Μάκρωνας ἀπειρεσίην τε Βεχείρων
γαῖαν ὑπερφιάλους τε παρεξενέοντο Σάπειρας,
Βύζηράς τ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν: ἐπιπρὸ γὰρ αἰὲν ἔτεμνον
1245 ἔσσυμένως, λιαροῖο φορεῦμενοι ἐξ ἀνέμοιο.
καὶ δὴ νισσομένοισι μυχὸς διεφαίνετο Πόντου.
καὶ δὴ Καυκασίων ὀρέων ἀνέτελλον ἐρίπναι
ἡλίβατοι, τόθι γυῖα περὶ στυφελοῖσι πάγοισιν
ἰλλόμενος χαλκήσιν ἀλυκτοπέδησι Προμηθεὺς
1250 αἰετὸν ἥπατι φέρβε παλιμπετὲς αἰσسونτα.
τὸν μὲν ἐπ' ἀκροτάτης ἴδον ἔσπερον ὅξει ροίζῳ
νηὸς ὑπερπτάμενον νεφέων σχεδόν: ἀλλὰ καὶ ἔμπης
λαίφεα πάντ' ἐτίναξε, παραιθύσας πτερύγεσσιν.
οὐ γὰρ ὄγ' αἰθερίοιο φυὴν ἔχεν οἴωνοιο,
1255 ἴσα δ' ἐυξέστοις ὠκύπερα πάλλεν ἐρετμοῖς,
δηρὸν δ' οὐ μετέπειτα πολύστονον αἶον αὐδὴν
ἦπαρ ἀνελκομένοιο Προμηθέος: ἔκτυπε δ' αἰθὴρ
οἰμωγῇ, μέσφ' αὖτις ἀπ' οὐρεος αἰσسونτα
αἰετὸν ὠμῆσθην αὐτὴν ὁδὸν εἰσενόησαν.
1260 ἐννύχιοι δ' Ἄργιοι δαημοσύνησιν ἵκοντο
Φᾶσιν τ' εὐρὺν ῥέοντα, καὶ ἔσχατα πείρατα πόντοι

[1242] Thence they sailed on, past the Macrones and the far-stretching land of the Becheiri and the overweening Sapeires, and after them the Byzeres; for ever forward they clave their way, quickly borne by the gentle breeze. And lo, as they sped on, a deep gulf of the sea was opened, and lo, the steep crags of the Caucasian mountains rose up, where, with his limbs bound upon the hard rocks by galling fetters of bronze, Prometheus fed with his liver an eagle that ever rushed back to its prey. High above the ship at even they saw it flying with a loud whirr, near the clouds; and yet it shook all the sails with the fanning of those huge wings. For it had not the form of a bird of the air but kept poisoning its long wing-feathers like polished oars. And not long after they heard the bitter cry of Prometheus as his liver was being torn away; and the air rang with his screams until they marked the ravening eagle rushing back from the mountain on the self-same track. And at night, by the skill of Argus, they reached broad-flowing Phasis, and the utmost bourne of the sea.

αὐτίκα δ' ἰστία μὲν καὶ ἐπὶ κριον ἔνδοθι κοίλης
ἰστοδόκης στείλαντες ἐκόσμεον: ἐν δὲ καὶ αὐτὸν
ἰστὸν ἄφαρ χαλάσαντο παρακλιδόν: ὥκα δ' ἐρετμοῖς
1265 εἰσέλασαν ποταμοῖο μέγαν ῥόον: αὐτὰρ ὁ πάντη
καχλάζων ὑπόεικεν. ἔχον δ' ἐπ' ἀριστερὰ χειρὸν

Καύκασον αἰπήεντα Κυταιίδα τε πτόλιν Αἴης,
 ἔνθεν δ' αὖ πεδῖον τὸ Ἀρήιον ἱερά τ' ἄλση
 τοῖο θεοῦ, τόθι κῶας ὄφιν εἴρυτο δοκεύων
 1270 πεπτάμενον λασίοισιν ἐπὶ δρυὸς ἀκρεμόνεσσιν.
 αὐτὸς δ' Αἰσονίδης χρυσέφ' ποταμόνδε κυπέλλῳ
 οἶνον ἀκηρασίῳ μελισταγέας χέε λοιβὰς
 γαίῃ τ' ἐνναέταις τε θεοῖς ψυχαῖς τε καμόντων
 ἡρώων· γουνοῦτο δ' ἀπήμονας εἶναι ἄρωγους
 1275 εὐμενέως, καὶ νηὸς ἐναΐσιμα πείσματα δέχθαι.
 αὐτίκα δ' Ἀγκαῖος τοῖον μετὰ μῦθον ἔειπεν·
 'Κολχίδα μὲν δὴ γαῖαν ἱκάνομεν ἡδὲ ῥέεθρα
 Φάσιδος· ὥρῃ δ' ἡμῖν ἐνὶ σφίσι μητιάσθαι,
 εἴτ' οὖν μελιχίῃ πειρησόμεθ' Αἰήταο,
 1280 εἴτε καὶ ἀλλοίῃ τις ἐπήβολος ἔσσεται ὁρμή.'

[1262] And straightway they let down the sails and the yard-arm and stowed them inside the hollow mast-crutch, and at once they lowered the mast itself till it lay along; and quickly with oars they entered the mighty stream of the river; and round the prow the water surged as it gave them way. And on their left hand they had lofty Caucasus and the Cytaean city of Aea, and on the other side the plain of Ares and the sacred grove of that god, where the serpent was keeping watch and ward over the fleece as it hung on the leafy branches of an oak. And Aeson's son himself from a golden goblet poured into the river libations of honey and pure wine to Earth and to the gods of the country, and to the souls of dead heroes; and he besought them of their grace to give kindly aid, and to welcome their ship's hawsers with favourable omen. And straightway Ancaeus spake these words: "We have reached the Colchian land and the stream of Phasis; and it is time for us to take counsel whether we shall make trial of Aeetes with soft words, or an attempt of another kind shall be fitting."

ὧς ἔφατ'· Ἄργου δ' αὖτε παρηγορήσιν Ἰήσων
 ὑπόθι νῆ' ἐκέλευσεν ἐπ' εὐναίησιν ἐρύσσαι
 δάσκιον εἰσελάσαντας ἔλος· τὸ δ' ἐπισχεδὸν ἦεν
 νισσομένων, ἔνθ' οἶγε διὰ κνέφας ἠϋλίζοντο.
 1285 ἡὼς δ' οὐ μετὰ δηρὸν ἐελδομένοις ἐφάνθη.

[1281] Thus he spake, and by the advice of Argus Jason bade them enter a shaded backwater and let the ship ride at anchor off shore; and it was near at hand in their course and there they passed the night. And soon the dawn appeared to their expectant eyes.

BOOK III.

εἰ δ' ἄγε νῦν, Ἐρατώ, παρά θ' ἵστασο, καί μοι ἔνισπε,
ἐνθεν ὅπως ἐς Ἴωλκὸν ἀνήγαγε κῶας Ἰήσων
Μηδείης ὑπ' ἔρωτι. σὺ γὰρ καὶ Κύπριδος αἶσαν
ἔμμορες, ἀδμῆτας δὲ τεοῖς μελεδήμασι θέλγεις
5 παρθενικάς: τῷ καὶ τοι ἐπήρατον οὔνομ' ἀνήπται.

[1] Come now, Erato, stand by my side, and say next how Jason brought back the fleece to Iolcus aided by the love of Medea. For thou sharest the power of Cypris, and by thy love-cares dost charm unwedded maidens; wherefore to thee too is attached a name that tells of love.

ὧς οἱ μὲν πυκινοῖσιν ἀνωίστως δονάκεσσιν
μίμνον ἀριστῆες λελοχημένοι: αἱ δ' ἐνόησαν
Ἥρη Ἀθηναίη τε, Διὸς δ' αὐτοῖο καὶ ἄλλων
ἀθανάτων ἀπονόσφι θεῶν θάλαμόνδε κιούσαι
10 βούλευον: πείραζε δ' Ἀθηναίην ἄρος Ἥρη:
'αὐτὴ νῦν προτέρη, θύγατερ Διός, ἄρχεο βουλής.
τί χρέος; ἢ ἐδόλον τινὰ μήσεαι, ᾧ κεν ἐλόντες
χρύσειον Αἰήταο μεθ' Ἑλλάδα κῶας ἄγοιντο,
ἦ καὶ τόνγ' ἐπέεσσι παραιφάμενοι πεπίθοιεν
15 μιλixίοις; ἦ γὰρ ὄγ' ὑπερφύαλος πέλει αἰνῶς.
ἔμπης δ' οὔτινα πεῖραν ἀποτρωπᾶσθαι ἔοικεν.'

[6] Thus the heroes, unobserved, were waiting in ambush amid the thick reed-beds; but Hera and Athena took note of them, and, apart from Zeus and the other immortals, entered a chamber and took counsel together; and Hera first made trial of Athena: "Do thou now first, daughter of Zeus, give advice. What must be done? Wilt thou devise some scheme whereby they may seize the golden fleece of Aetes and bear it to Hellas, or can they deceive the king with soft words and so work persuasion? Of a truth he is terribly overweening. Still it is right to shrink from no endeavour."

ὧς φάτο: τὴν δὲ παρᾶσσον Ἀθηναίη προσέειπεν:
'καὶ δ' αὐτὴν ἐμὲ τοῖα μετὰ φρεσὶν ὀρμαίνουσας,
Ἥρη, ἀπηλεγέως ἐξείρεαι. ἀλλὰ τοι οὐπω
20 φράσσασθαι νοέω τοῦτον δόλον, ὅστις ὀνήσει
θυμὸν ἀριστήων: πολέας δ' ἐπεδοίασα βουλάς.'

[17] Thus she spake, and at once Athena addressed her: "I too was pondering such thoughts in my heart, Hera, when thou didst ask me outright. But not yet do I think that I have conceived a scheme to aid the courage of the heroes, though I have balanced many plans."

ἦ, καὶ ἐπ' οὐδ' αἶγε ποδῶν πάρος ὄμματ' ἔπληξαν,
ἀνδριχὰ πορφύρουσαι ἐνὶ σφίσιν· αὐτίκα δ' Ἥρη
τοῖον μητιόωσα παροιτέρῃ ἔκφατο μῦθον:
25 'δεῦρ' ἴομεν μετὰ Κύπριν· ἐπιπλόμεναι δέ μιν ἄμφω
παιδί ἑῷ εἰπεῖν ὀτρύνομεν, αἳ κε πίθηται
κούρην Αἰήτεω πολυφάρμακον οἷσι βέλεσσιν
θέλξει ὀιστεύσας ἐπ' Ἰήσωνι. τὸν δ' ἂν οἶω
κείνης ἐννεσίησιν ἐς Ἑλλάδα κῶας ἀνάξειν.'

[22] She ended, and the goddesses fixed their eyes on the ground at their feet, brooding apart; and straightway Hera was the first to speak her thought: "Come, let us go to Cypris; let both of us accost her and urge her to bid her son (if only he will obey) speed his shaft at the daughter of Aeetes, the enchantress, and charm her with love for Jason. And I deem that by her device he will bring back the fleece to Hellas."

30 ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη· πυκινὴ δὲ συνεύαδε μῆτις Ἀθήνη,
καὶ μιν ἔπειτ' ἐξαῦτις ἀμείβετο μειλίχοισιν:
"Ἥρη, νῆϊδα μέν με πατήρ τέκε τοῖο βολῶων,
οὐδέ τινα χρεῖῳ θελκτήριον οἶδα πόθοιο.
εἰ δέ σοι αὐτῇ μῦθος ἐφανεράνει, ἦ τ' ἂν ἔγωγε
35 ἐσποίμην· σὺ δέ κεν φαίης ἔπος ἀντιόωσα.'

[30] Thus she spake, and the prudent plan pleased Athena, and she addressed her in reply with gentle words: "Hera, my father begat me to be a stranger to the darts of love, nor do I know any charm to work desire. But if the word pleases thee, surely I will follow; but thou must speak when we meet her."

ἦ, καὶ ἀναΐξασαι ἐπὶ μέγα δῶμα νέοντο
Κύπριδος, ὃ ρά τέ οἱ δεῖμιν πόσις ἀμφιγυήεις,
ὀππότε μιν τὰ πρῶτα παραι Διὸς ἦγεν ἄκοιτιν.
ἔρκεα δ' εἰσελθοῦσαι ὑπ' αἰθούσῃ θαλάμοιο
40 ἔσταν, ἴν' ἐντύνεσκε θεὰ λέχος Ἥφαιστοιο.
ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν ἐς χαλκεῶνα καὶ ἄκμονας ἦρι βεβήκει,
νήσοιο πλαγκτῆς εὐρὺν μυχόν, ὃ ἔνι πάντα
δαίδαλα χάλκευεν ῥιπῇ πυρόσ' ἥ δ' ἄρα μούνη
ἦστο δόμῳ δινωτὸν ἀνὰ θρόνον, ἅντα θυράων.
45 λευκοῖσιν δ' ἐκάτερθε κόμας ἐπιεμμένη ὥμοις
κόσμηι χρυσεῖη διὰ κερκίδι, μέλλε δὲ μακροὺς
πλέξασθαι πλοκάμους· τὰς δὲ προπάροιθεν ἰδοῦσα
ἔσχεθεν, εἶσω τέ σφ' ἐκάλει, καὶ ἀπὸ θρόνου ὤρτο,
εἶσέ τ' ἐνὶ κλισμοῖσιν· ἀτὰρ μετέπειτα καὶ αὐτὴ
50 ἵζανεν, ἀψήκτους δὲ χεροῖν ἀνεδήσατο χαίτας.
τοῖα δὲ μειδιόωσα προσέννεπεν αἰμυλίοισιν:
'Ἡθεῖαι, τίς δεῦρο νόος χρεῖω τε κομίζει
δηναιᾶς αὐτῶς; τί δ' ἰκάνετον, οὔτι πάρος γε

λίην φοιτίζουσαι, ἐπεὶ περίεστε θεάων;’

[36] So she said, and starting forth they came to the mighty palace of Cypris, which her husband, the halt-footed god, had built for her when first he brought her from Zeus to be his wife. And entering the court they stood beneath the gallery of the chamber where the goddess prepared the couch of Hephaestus. But he had gone early to his forge and anvils to a broad cavern in a floating island where with the blast of flame he wrought all manner of curious work; and she all alone was sitting within, on an inlaid seat facing the door. And her white shoulders on each side were covered with the mantle of her hair and she was parting it with a golden comb and about to braid up the long tresses; but when she saw the goddesses before her, she stayed and called them within, and rose from her seat and placed them on couches. Then she herself sat down, and with her hands gathered up the locks still uncombed. And smiling she addressed them with crafty words: “Good friends, what intent, what occasion brings you here after so long? Why have ye come, not too frequent visitors before, chief among goddesses that ye are?”

55 τὴν δ’ Ἥρη τοίοισιν ἀμειβομένη προσέειπεν:

Ἐρτομέεις: νῶϊν δὲ κέαρ συνορίνεται ἄτη.

ἦδη γάρ ποταμῷ ἐνὶ Φάσιδι νῆα κατίσχει

Αἰσονίδης, ἥ δ’ ἄλλοι ὅσοι μετὰ κῶας ἔπονται.

τῶν ἧτοι πάντων μὲν, ἐπεὶ πέλας ἔργον ὄρωρεν,

60 δείδιμεν ἐκπάγλως, περὶ δ’ Αἰσονίδαο μάλιστα.

τὸν μὲν ἐγών, εἰ καὶ περ ἐς Ἴδιαν ναυτίλληται

λυσόμενος χαλκῶν Ἰξίονα νειόθι δεσμῶν,

ρύσομαι, ὅσσον ἐμοῖσιν ἐνὶ σθένος ἔπλετο γυίοις,

ὄφρα μὴ ἐγγελάσῃ Πελὶς κακὸν οἶτον ἀλύξας,

65 ὅς μ’ ὑπερηνορέῃ θυέων ἀγέραςτον ἔθηκεν.

καὶ δ’ ἄλλως ἔτι καὶ πρὶν ἐμοὶ μέγα φίλατ’ Ἰήσων

ἐξότ’ ἐπὶ προχοῇσιν ἄλις πλήθοντος Ἀναύρου

ἀνδρῶν εὐνομίας πειρωμένη ἀντεβόλησεν

θήρης ἐξανιών: νιφετῷ δ’ ἐπαλύνετο πάντα

70 οὔρεα καὶ σκοπιαὶ περιμήκεες, οἱ δὲ κατ’ αὐτῶν

χείμαρροι καναχηδὰ κυλινδόμενοι φορέοντο.

γρηὶ δέ μ’ εἰσαμένην ὀλοφύρατο, καὶ μ’ ἀναεῖρας

αὐτὸς ἐοῖς ὥμοισι διέκ προαλὲς φέρεν ὕδωρ.

τῷ νῦ μοι ἄλληκτον περιτίεται: οὐδέ κε λῶβην

75 τίσειεν Πελὶς, εἰ μὴ σύ γε νόστον ὀπάσσεις.’

[55] And to her Hera replied: “Thou dost mock us, but our hearts are stirred with calamity. For already on the river Phasis the son of Aeson moors his ship, he and his comrades in quest of the fleece. For all their sakes we fear terribly (for the task is nigh at hand) but most for Aeson’s son. Him will I deliver, though he sail even to Hades to free Ixion below from his brazen

chains, as far as strength lies in my limbs, so that Pelias may not mock at having escaped an evil doom — Pelias who left me unhonoured with sacrifice. Moreover Jason was greatly loved by me before, ever since at the mouth of Anaurus in flood, as I was making trial of men's righteousness, he met me on his return from the chase; and all the mountains and long ridged peaks were sprinkled with snow, and from them the torrents rolling down were rushing with a roar. And he took pity on me in the likeness of an old crone, and raising me on his shoulders himself bore me through the headlong tide. So he is honoured by me unceasingly; nor will Pelias pay the penalty of his outrage, unless thou wilt grant Jason his return."

ὥς ἡῦδα: Κύπριν δ' ἐνεοστασίῃ λάβε μύθων.
ἄζετο δ' ἀντομένην Ἥρην ἔθεν εἰσορόωσα,
καί μιν ἔπειτ' ἀγανοῖσι προσέννεπεν ἥγ' ἐπέεσσιν:
'πότνα θεά, μή τοί τι κακώτερον ἄλλο πέλοιτο
80 Κύπριδος, εἰ δὴ σεῖο λιλαιομένης ἀθερίζω
ἢ ἔπος ἤε τι ἔργον, ὃ κεν χέρες αἴγε κάμοιεν
ἠπεδαναί: καὶ μή τις ἀμοιβαίῃ χάρις ἔστω.'

[76] Thus she spake, and speechlessness seized Cypris. And beholding Hera supplicating her she felt awe, and then addressed her with friendly words: "Dread goddess, may no viler thing than Cypris ever be found, if I disregard thy eager desire in word or deed, whatever my weak arms can effect; and let there be no favour in return."

ὥς ἔφαθ': Ἥρῃ δ' αὖτις ἐπιφραδέως ἀγορευσεν:
'οὔτι βίης χατέουσαι ἰκάνομεν, οὐδέ τι χειρῶν.
85 ἄλλ' αὐτῶς ἀκέουσα τεῶ ἐπικέκλειο παιδί
παρθένον Αἰήτεω θέλξαι πόθῳ Αἰσονίδαο.
εἰ γάρ οἱ κείνη συμφράσσεται εὐμενέουσα,
ῥηιδίως μιν ἐλόντα δέρος χρύσειον οἶω
νοστήσειν ἐς Ἴωλκόν, ἐπεὶ δολόεσσα τέτυκται.'

[83] She spake, and Hera again addressed her with prudence: "It is not in need of might or of strength that we have come. But just quietly bid thy boy charm Aeetes' daughter with love for Jason. For if she will aid him with her kindly counsel, easily do I think he will win the fleece of gold and return to Iolcus, for she is full of wiles."

90 ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη: Κύπρις δὲ μετ' ἀμφοτέρησιν ἔειπεν:
"Ἥρῃ, Ἀθηναίῃ τε, πίθοιτό κεν ὕμμι μάλιστα,
ἢ ἐμοί. ὕμειων γὰρ ἀναιδήτῳ περ ἐόντι
τυτθὴ γ' αἰδῶς ἔσσειτ' ἐν ὄμμασιν: αὐτὰρ ἐμεῖο
οὐκ ὀθεται, μάλα δ' αἰὲν ἐριδμαίνων ἀθερίζει.
95 καὶ δὴ οἱ μενέηνα, περισχομένη κακότητι,
αὐτοῖσιν τόξοις δυσηγέας ἄξαι οἰστοῦς

ἀμφαδίην. τοῖον γὰρ ἐπηπειλῆσε χαλεφθεῖς,
εἰ μὴ τηλόθι χεῖρας, ἕως ἔτι θυμὸν ἐρύκει,
ἕξω ἐμάς, μετέπειτά γ' ἀτεμβοίμην ἐοῖ αὐτῇ.'

[90] Thus she spake, and Cypris addressed them both: "Hera and Athena, he will obey you rather than me. For unabashed though he is, there will be some slight shame in his eyes before you; but he has no respect for me, but ever slights me in contentious mood. And, overborne by his naughtiness, I purpose to break his ill-sounding arrows and his bow in his very sight. For in his anger he has threatened that if I shall not keep my hands off him while he still masters his temper, I shall have cause to blame myself thereafter."

100 ὧς φάτο: μείδῃσαν δὲ θεαί, καὶ ἐσέδρακον ἄντην
ἀλλήλαις. ἡ δ' αὖτις ἀκηχεμένη προσέειπεν:
'ἄλλοις ἄλγεα τὰμὰ γέλως πέλει: οὐδέ τί με χρῆ
μυθεῖσθαι πάντεσσιν: ἄλις εἰδυῖα καὶ αὐτῇ.
νῦν δ' ἐπεὶ ὕμμι φίλον τόδε δὴ πέλει ἀμφοτέρησιν,
105 πειρήσω, καὶ μιν μειλίζομαι, οὐδ' ἀπιθήσει.'

[100] So she spake, and the goddesses smiled and looked at each other. But Cypris again spoke, vexed at heart: "To others my sorrows are a jest; nor ought I to tell them to all; I know them too well myself. But now, since this pleases you both, I will make the attempt and coax him, and he will not say me nay."

ὧς φάτο: τὴν δ' Ἥρην ῥαδινῆς ἐπεμάσσατο χειρός,
ἦκα δὲ μειδιόωσα παραβλήδην προσέειπεν:
'οὕτω νῦν, Κυθήρεια, τόδε χρέος, ὥς ἀγορεύεις,
ἔρξον ἄφαρ: καὶ μὴ τι χαλέπτεο, μηδ' ἐρίδαινε
110 χωομένη σῶ παιδί: μεταλλάξει γὰρ ὀπίσσω.'

[106] Thus she spake, and Hera took her slender hand and gently smiling, replied: "Perform this task, Cytherea, straightway, as thou sayest; and be not angry or contend with thy boy; he will cease hereafter to vex thee."

ἦ ῥα, καὶ ἔλλιπε θῶκον: ἐφωμάρτησε δ' Ἀθήνη:
ἐκ δ' ἴσαν ἄμφω ταίγε παλίσσυτοι. ἡ δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ
βῆ ῥ' ἵμεν Οὐλύμποιο κατὰ πτύχας, εἴ μιν ἐφεύροι.
εὔρε δὲ τόνγ' ἀπάνευθε Διὸς θαλερῇ ἐν ἄλωϊ,
115 οὐκ οἶον, μετα καὶ Γανυμήδεα, τὸν ῥά ποτε Ζεὺς
οὐρανῷ ἐγκατένασεν ἐφέστιον ἀθανάτοισιν,
κάλλεος ἱμερθεῖς. ἀμφ' ἀστραγάλοισι δὲ τώγε
χρυσείοις, ἃ τε κοῦροι ὀμήθεες, ἐνιόωντο.
καὶ ῥ' ὁ μὲν ἤδη πάμπαν ἐνίπλεον ᾧ ὑπὸ μαζῶ
120 μάργος Ἔρως λαιῆς ὑποΐσχανε χειρὸς ἀγοστόν,
ὀρθὸς ἐφεστηώς: γλυκερὸν δὲ οἱ ἀμφὶ παρειάς

χρoιῇ θάλλεν ἔρευθος. ὁ δ' ἐγγύθεν ὀκλαδὸν ἦστο
σῖγα κατηφίῳν: δοιῷ δ' ἔχεν, ἄλλον ἔτ' αὐτως
ἄλλω ἐπιπροΐεις, κεχόλωτο δὲ καρχαλῶντι.
125 καὶ μὴν τοῦσγε παρᾶσσον ἐπὶ προτέροισιν ὀλέσσας
βῆ κενεαῖς σὺν χερσὶν ἀμήχανος, οὐδ' ἐνόησεν

[111] She spake, and left her seat, and Athena accompanied her and they went forth both hastening back. And Cypris went on her way through the glens of Olympus to find her boy. And she found him apart, in the blooming orchard of Zeus, not alone, but with him Ganymedes, whom once Zeus had set to dwell among the immortal gods, being enamoured of his beauty. And they were playing for golden dice, as boys in one house are wont to do. And already greedy Eros was holding the palm of his left hand quite full of them under his breast, standing upright; and on the bloom of his cheeks a sweet blush was glowing. But the other sat crouching hard by, silent and downcast, and he had two dice left which he threw one after the other, and was angered by the loud laughter of Eros. And lo, losing them straightway with the former, he went off empty handed, helpless, and noticed not the approach of Cypris.

Κύπριν ἐπιπλομένην. ἡ δ' ἀντίη ἴστατο παιδός,
καί μιν ἄφαρ γναθμοῖο κατασχομένη προσέειπεν:
‘τίπτ’ ἐπιμειδιάας, ἄφατον κακόν; ἦέ μιν αὐτως
130 ἦπαφες, οὐδὲ δίκη περιέπλεο νῆιν ἐόντα;
εἰ δ' ἄγε μοι πρόφρων τέλεσον χρέος, ὅττι κεν εἴπω:
καί κέν τοι ὀπάσαιμι Διὸς περικαλλὲς ἄθυρμα
κεῖνο, τό οἱ ποίησε φίλη τροφὸς Ἀδρήστεια
ἄντρῳ ἐν Ἰδαίῳ ἔτι νήπια κουρίζοντι,
135 σφαῖραν ἐντρόχαλον, τῆς οὐ σύγε μείλιον ἄλλο
χειρῶν Ἥφαιστοιο κατακτεατίσσει ἄρειον.
χρῦσεα μὲν οἱ κύκλα τετεύχεται: ἀμφὶ δ' ἐκάστω
διπλοαὶ ἀψῖδες περιηγέες εἰλίσσονται:
κρυπταὶ δὲ ῥαφαὶ εἰσιν: ἔλιξ δ' ἐπιδέδρομε πάσαις
140 κυανέη. ἀτὰρ εἴ μιν ἐαῖς ἐνὶ χερσὶ βάλοιο,
ἀστήρ ὥς, φλεγέθοντα δι' ἡέρος ὀλκὸν ἦσιν.
τὴν τοι ἐγὼν ὀπάσω: σὺ δὲ παρθένον Αἰήταο
θέλξον οἰστεύσας ἐπ' Ἰήσωνι: μηδέ τις ἔστω
ἀμβολίη. δὴ γάρ κεν ἀφαιυροτέρη χάρις εἴη.’

[127] And she stood before her boy, and laying her hand on his lips, addressed him: “Why dost thou smile in triumph, unutterable rogue? Hast thou cheated him thus, and unjustly overcome the innocent child? Come, be ready to perform for me the task I will tell thee of, and I will give thee Zeus’ all-beauteous plaything — the one which his dear nurse Adrasteia made for him, while he still lived a child, with childish ways, in the Idaean cave — a well-rounded ball; no better toy wilt thou get from the hands of Hephaestus. All of

gold are its zones, and round each double seams run in a circle; but the stitches are hidden, and a dark blue spiral overlays them all. But if thou shouldst cast it with thy hands, lo, like a star, it sends a flaming track through the sky. This I will give thee; and do thou strike with thy shaft and charm the daughter of Aeetes with love for Jason; and let there be no loitering. For then my thanks would be the slighter.”

145 ὧς φάτο: τῷ δ' ἀσπαστὸν ἔπος γένετ' εἰσαῖοντι.
μεῖλια δ' ἔκβαλε πάντα, καὶ ἀμφοτέρῃσι χιτῶνος
νωλεμές ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα θεᾷς ἔχεν ἀμφιμεμαρπῶς.
λίσσέτο δ' αἶψα πορεῖν αὐτοσχεδόν: ἢ δ' ἀγανοῖσιν
ἀντομένη μύθοισιν, ἐπειρύσσασα παρειάς,
150 κύσσε ποτισχομένη, καὶ ἀμείβετο μειδιόωσα:
ἴστω νῦν τόδε σεῖο φίλον κάρη ἥδ' ἐμὸν αὐτῆς,
ἦ μὲν τοι δῶρόν γε παρέξομαι, οὐδ' ἀπατήσω,
εἴ κεν ἐνισκίμῃς κούρη βέλος Αἰήταο.'

[145] Thus she spake, and welcome were her words to the listening boy. And he threw down all his toys, and eagerly seizing her robe on this side and on that, clung to the goddess. And he implored her to bestow the gift at once; but she, facing him with kindly words, touched his cheeks, kissed him and drew him to her, and replied with a smile: “Be witness now thy dear head and mine, that surely I will give thee the gift and deceive thee not, if thou wilt strike with thy shaft Aeetes’ daughter.”

φῆ: ὁ δ' ἄρ' ἀστραγάλους συναμήσατο, καὶ δὲ φαεινῷ
155 μητρὸς ἔῃς εὖ πάντας ἀριθμήσας βάλε κόλπῳ.
αὐτίκα δ' ἰοδόκην χρυσῆν περικάθετο μίτρῃ
πρέμνῳ κεκλιμένην: ἀνὰ δ' ἀγκύλον εἵλετο τόξον.
βῆ δὲ διῆκ μεγάροιο Διὸς πάγκαρπον ἀλωήν.
αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα πύλας ἐξήλυθεν Οὐλύμποιο
160 αἰθερίας: ἔνθεν δὲ καταιβάτις ἐστὶ κέλευθος
οὐρανῆ: δοιῷ δὲ πόλοι ἀνέχουσι κάρηνα
οὐρέων ἡλιβάτων, κορυφαὶ χθονός, ἥχι τ' ἀερθεῖς
ἥελιος πρότῃσιν ἐρέυθεται ἄκτίνεσσιν.
νειόθι δ' ἄλλοτε γαῖα φερέσβιος ἄστεά τ' ἀνδρῶν
165 φαίνεται καὶ ποταμῶν ἱεροὶ ῥόοι, ἄλλοτε δ' αὖτε
ἄκριες, ἀμφὶ δὲ πόντος ἀν' αἰθέρα πολλὸν ἰόντι.

[154] She spoke, and he gathered up his dice, and having well counted them all threw them into his mother’s gleaming lap. And straightway with golden baldric he slung round him his quiver from where it leant against a tree-trunk, and took up his curved bow. And he fared forth through the fruitful orchard of the palace of Zeus. Then he passed through the gates of Olympus high in air; hence is a downward path from heaven; and the twin poles rear aloft steep mountain tops the highest crests of earth, where the risen sun grows ruddy

with his first beams. And beneath him there appeared now the life-giving earth and cities of men and sacred streams of rivers, and now in turn mountain peaks and the ocean all around, as he swept through the vast expanse of air.

ἦρωες δ' ἀπάνευθεν ἔῃς ἐπὶ σέλμασι νηὸς
ἐν ποταμῷ καθ' ἔλος λελοχημένοι ἡγορόωντο.
αὐτὸς δ' Αἰσονίδης μετεφώνεεν· οἱ δ' ὑπάκουον
170 ἡρέμας ἢ ἐνὶ χώρῃ ἐπισχερῶ ἐδριόωντες·
ὦ φίλοι, ἦτοι ἐγὼ μὲν ὃ μοι ἐπιανδάνει αὐτῷ
ἐξερέω· τοῦ δ' ὕμμι τέλος κρηῖναι ἔοικεν.
ξυνὴ γὰρ χρειώ, ξυνοὶ δέ τε μῦθοι ἔασιν
πᾶσιν ὁμῶς· ὁ δὲ σῖγα νόον βουλὴν τ' ἀπερύκων
175 ἴστω καὶ νόστου τόνδε στόλον οἶος ἀπούρας.
ἄλλοι μὲν κατὰ νῆα σὺν ἔντεσι μίμνεθ' ἔκηλοι·
αὐτὰρ ἐγὼν ἐς δώματ' ἐλεύσομαι Αἰήταο,
υἱᾶς ἐλὼν Φρίξιοιο δύω δ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ἐταίρους.
πειρήσω δ' ἐπέεσσι παροίτερον ἀντιβολήσας,
180 εἴ κ' ἐθέλοι φιλότῃτι δέρος χρύσειον ὀπάσσαι,
ἦε καὶ οὐ, πίσυνος δὲ βίῃ μετιόντας ἀτίσσει.
ὥδε γὰρ ἐξ αὐτοῖο πάρος κακότητα δαέντες
φρασσόμεθ', εἴτ' ἄρῃ συνοισόμεθ' εἴτε τις ἄλλη
μῆτις ἐπίρροθος ἔσται ἐργομένοισιν ἀντῆς.
185 μῆδ' αὐτως ἀλκῇ, πρὶν ἔπεσσί γε πειρηθῆναι,
τόνδ' ἀπαμείρωμεν σφέτερον κτέρας· ἀλλὰ πάροιθεν
λωϊτερον μῦθῳ μιν ἀρέσσασθαι μετιόντας.
πολλάκι τοι ρέα μῦθος, ὃ κεν μόλις ἐξανύσειεν
ἡγορή, τόδ' ἔρεξε κατὰ χρέος, ἥπερ ἐφκει
190 πρηνῶνας. ὁ δὲ καὶ ποτ' ἀμύμονα Φρίξον ἔδεκτο
μητρυιῆς φεύγοντα δόλον πατρός τε θυηλάς.
πάντες ἐπεὶ πάντῃ καὶ ὅτις μάλα κύντατος ἀνδρῶν,
ξείνιου αἰδεῖται Ζηνὸς θέμιν ἢδ' ἀλεγίζει.'

[167] Now the heroes apart in ambush, in a back-water of the river, were met in council, sitting on the benches of their ship. And Aeson's son himself was speaking among them; and they were listening silently in their places sitting row upon row: "My friends, what pleases myself that will I say out; it is for you to bring about its fulfilment. For in common is our task, and common to all alike is the right of speech; and he who in silence withholds his thought and his counsel, let him know that it is he alone that bereaves this band of its home-return. Do ye others rest here in the ship quietly with your arms; but I will go to the palace of Aeetes, taking with me the sons of Phrixus and two comrades as well. And when I meet him I will first make trial with words to see if he will be willing to give up the golden fleece for friendship's sake or not, but trusting to his might will set at nought our quest. For so, learning his frowardness first from himself, we will consider whether we shall meet him in

battle, or some other plan shall avail us, if we refrain from the war-cry. And let us not merely by force, before putting words to the test, deprive him of his own possession. But first it is better to go to him and win his favour by speech. Oftentimes, I ween, does speech accomplish at need what prowess could hardly catty through, smoothing the path in manner befitting. And he once welcomed noble Phrixus, a fugitive from his stepmother's wiles and the sacrifice prepared by his father. For all men everywhere, even the most shameless, reverence the ordinance of Zeus, god of strangers, and regard it."

ὥς φάτ'· ἐπήνησαν δὲ νέοι ἔπος Αἰσονίδαο
195 πασσυδίη, οὐδ' ἔσκε παρὲξ ὅτις ἄλλο κελεύοι.
καὶ τότε ἄρ' υἱῆας Φρίξου Τελαμῶνά θ' ἔπεσθαι
ᾧρσε καὶ Αὐγείην· αὐτὸς δ' ἔλεν Ἑρμείαο
σκῆπτρον· ἄφαρ δ' ἄρα νηὸς ὑπὲρ δόνακάς τε καὶ ὕδωρ
χέρσονδ' ἐξαπέβησαν ἐπὶ θρωσμοῦ πεδίοιο.
200 Κίρκαϊον τόδε που κικλήσκεται· ἔνθα δὲ πολλὰ
ἐξεῖς πρόμαλοί τε καὶ ἰτέαι ἐκπεφύασιν,
τῶν καὶ ἐπ' ἀκροτάτων νέκυες σειρῇσι κρέμανται
δέσμιοι. εἰσέτι νῦν γὰρ ἄγος Κόλχοισιν ὄρωρεν
ἀνέρας οἰχομένους πυρὶ καιέμεν· οὐδ' ἐνὶ γαίῃ
205 ἔστι θέμις στείλαντας ὕπερθ' ἐπὶ σῆμα χέεσθαι,
ἀλλ' ἐν ἀδεψήτοισι κατελύσαντε βοείαις
δενδρέων ἐξάπτειν ἐκὰς ἄστεος. ἡέρι δ' ἴσην
καὶ χθὼν ἔμμορεν αἶσαν, ἐπεὶ χθονὶ ταρχύουσιν
θηλυτέρας· ἡ γάρ τε δίκη θεσμοῖο τέτυκται.

[194] Thus he spake, and the youths approved the words of Aeson's son with one accord, nor was there one to counsel otherwise. And then he summoned to go with him the sons of Phrixus, and Telamon and Augeias; and himself took Hermes' wand; and at once they passed forth from the ship beyond the reeds and the water to dry land, towards the rising ground of the plain. The plain, I wis, is called Circe's; and here in line grow many willows and osiers, on whose topmost branches hang corpses bound with cords. For even now it is an abomination with the Colchians to burn dead men with fire; nor is it lawful to place them in the earth and raise a mound above, but to wrap them in untanned oxhides and suspend them from trees far from the city. And so earth has an equal portion with air, seeing that they bury the women; for that is the custom of their land.

210 τοῖσι δὲ νισσομένοις Ἥρη φίλα μητιώσα
ἡέρα πουλὺν ἐφῆκε δι' ἄστεος, ὄφρα λάθοιεν
Κόλχων μυρίον ἔθνος ἐς Αἰήταο κίοντες.
ὦκα δ' ὅτ' ἐκ πεδίοιο πόλιν καὶ δώμαθ' ἴκοντο
Αἰήτεω, τότε δ' αὖτις ἀπεσκέδασεν νέφος Ἥρη.
215 ἔσταν δ' ἐν προμολῇσι τεθηπότες ἔρκε' ἄνακτος

εὐρείας τε πύλας καὶ κίονας, οἱ περὶ τοίχους
ἐξείης ἄνεχον· θριγκὸς δ' ἐφύπερθε δόμοιο
λαϊνέος χαλκήσιν ἐπὶ γλυφίδεσσιν ἀρήρει.
εὐκηλοὶ δ' ὑπὲρ οὐδὸν ἔπειτ' ἔβαν. ἄγχι δὲ τοῖο
220 ἡμερίδες χλοεροῖσι καταστεφές πετάλοισιν
ὑποῦ ἀειρόμεναι μέγ' ἐθήλεον. αἱ δ' ὑπὸ τῇσιν
ἀέναοι κρῆναι πίσυρες ῥέον, ἃς ἐλάχνηνεν
Ἥφαιστος. καὶ ῥ' ἡ μὲν ἀναβλύσκε γάλακτι,
ἡ δ' οἶνω, τριτάτῃ δὲ θυώδεϊ νᾶεν ἀλοιφῇ·
225 ἡ δ' ἄρ' ὕδωρ προρέεσκε, τὸ μὲν ποθὶ δυομένησιν
θέρμετο Πληιάδεσσιν, ἀμοιβηδὶς δ' ἀνιούσαις
κρυστάλλῳ ἵκελον κοίλης ἀνεκῆκιε πέτρης.
τοῖ' ἄρ' ἐνὶ μεγάροισι Κυταίος Αἰήταο
τεχνήεις Ἥφαιστος ἐμήσατο θέσκελα ἔργα.
230 καὶ οἱ χαλκόποδας ταύρους κάμε, χάλκεα δὲ σφεων
ἦν στόματ', ἐκ δὲ πυρὸς δεινὸν σέλας ἀμπνείεσκον·
πρὸς δὲ καὶ αὐτόγυον στιβαροῦ ἀδάμαντος ἄροτρον
ἤλασεν, Ἡελίῳ τίνων χάριν, ὅς ῥά μιν ἵπποις
δέξατο, Φλεγραίῃ κεκμηότα δηιοτῇτι.
235 ἔνθα δὲ καὶ μέσσαυλος ἐλήλατο· τῇ δ' ἐπὶ πολλαὶ
δικλίδες εὐπηγεῖς θάλαμοί τ' ἔσαν ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα·
δαιδαλέῃ δ' αἴθουσα παρὲς ἐκάτερθε τέτυκτο.
λέχρισ δ' αἰπύτεροι δόμοι ἔστασαν ἀμφοτέρωθεν.
τῶν ἥτοι ἄλλω μὲν, ὅτις καὶ ὑπείροχος ἦεν,
240 κρείων Αἰήτης σὺν ἑῇ ναίεσκε δάμαρτι·
ἄλλω δ' Ἄψυρτος ναῖεν πάις Αἰήταο.
τὸν μὲν Καυκασίῃ νύμφῃ τέκεν Ἀστερόδεια
πρὶν περ κουριδίην θέσθαι Εἰδυῖαν ἄκοιτιν,
Τηθύος Ὠκεανοῦ τε πανοπλοτάτην γεγαυῖαν.
245 καὶ μιν Κόλχων υἱὲς ἐπωνυμίην Φαέθοντα
ἔκλεον, οὐνεκα πᾶσι μετέπρεπεν ἡθέοισιν.
τοὺς δ' ἔχον ἀμφίπολοί τε καὶ Αἰήταο θύγατρες
ἄμφω, Χαλκίοπη Μήδειά τε. τὴν μὲν ἄρ' οἶγε
ἐκ θαλάμου θάλαμόνδε κασιγνήτην μετιοῦσαν —
250 Ἥρῃ γάρ μιν ἔρυκε δόμῳ· πρὶν δ' οὐτὶ θάμιζεν
ἐν μεγάροις, Ἐκάτης δὲ πανήμερος ἀμφεπονεῖτο
νηόν, ἐπεὶ ῥα θεᾶς αὐτὴ πέλεν ἀρήτειρα —
καὶ σφεας ὥς ἴδεν ἄσπον, ἀνίαχεν· ὁξὺ δ' ἄκουσεν
Χαλκίοπη· δμῳαὶ δὲ ποδῶν προπάροιθε βαλῶσαι
255 νήματα καὶ κλωστήρας ἀολλέες ἐκτοθὶ πᾶσαι
ἔδραμον. ἡ δ' ἅμα τοῖσιν ἐοὺς υἱῆς ἰδοῦσα
ὑποῦ χάρματι χεῖρας ἀνέσχεθεν· ὧς δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ
μητέρα δεξιόωντο, καὶ ἀμφαγάπαζον ἰδόντες
γηθόσυνοι· τοῖον δὲ κινυρομένη φάτο μῦθον·

260 ἔμπης οὐκ ἄρ' ἐμέλλετ' ἀκηδεῖν με λιπόντες
 τηλόθι πλάγξασθαι: μετὰ δ' ὑμέας ἔτραπεν αἴσα.
 δειλὴ ἐγώ, οἷον πόθον Ἑλλάδος ἔκποθεν αἵτης
 λευγαλέης Φριζοῖο ἐφημοσύνησιν ἔλεσθε
 πατρός. ὁ μὲν θνήσκων στυγεράς ἐπετείλατ' ἀνίας
 265 ἡμετέρῃ κραδίῃ. τί δέ κεν πόλιν Ὀρχομενοῖο,
 ὅστις ὄδ' Ὀρχομενός, κτεάνων Ἀθάμαντος ἔκτι
 μητέρ' ἐὼν ἀχέουσαν ἀποπρολιπόντες, ἴκοισθε;

[210] And as they went Hera with friendly thought spread a thick mist through the city, that they might fare to the palace of Aeetes unseen by the countless hosts of the Colchians. But soon when from the plain they came to the city and Aeetes' palace, then again Hera dispersed the mist. And they stood at the entrance, marvelling at the king's courts and the wide gates and columns which rose in ordered lines round the walls; and high up on the palace a coping of stone rested on brazen triglyphs. And silently they crossed the threshold. And close by garden vines covered with green foliage were in full bloom, lifted high in air. And beneath them ran four fountains, ever-flowing, which Hephaestus had delved out. One was gushing with milk, one with wine, while the third flowed with fragrant oil; and the fourth ran with water, which grew warm at the setting of the Pleiads, and in turn at their rising bubbled forth from the hollow rock, cold as crystal. Such then were the wondrous works that the craftsman-god Hephaestus had fashioned in the palace of Cytaean Aeetes. And he wrought for him bulls with feet of bronze, and their mouths were of bronze, and from them they breathed out a terrible flame of fire; moreover he forged a plough of unbending adamant, all in one piece, in payment of thanks to Helios, who had taken the god up in his chariot when faint from the Phlegraean fight. And here an inner-court was built, and round it were many well-fitted doors and chambers here and there, and all along on each side was a richly-wrought gallery. And on both sides loftier buildings stood obliquely. In one, which was the loftiest, lordly Aeetes dwelt with his queen; and in another dwelt Apsyrtus, son of Aeetes, whom a Caucasian nymph, Asterodeia, bare before he made Eidyia his wedded wife, the youngest daughter of Tethys and Oceanus. And the sons of the Colchians called him by the new name of Phaethon, because he outshone all the youths. The other buildings the handmaidens had, and the two daughters of Aeetes, Chalciope and Medea. Medea then [they found] going from chamber to chamber in search of her sister, for Hera detained her within that day; but beforetime she was not wont to haunt the palace, but all day long was busied in Hecate's temple, since she herself was the priestess of the goddess. And when she saw them she cried aloud, and quickly Chalciope caught the sound; and her maids, throwing down at their feet their yarn and their thread, rushed forth all in a throng. And she, beholding her sons among them, raised her hands aloft through joy; and so they likewise greeted their mother, and when they saw her embraced her in their gladness; and she with many sobs spoke

thus: "After all then, ye were not destined to leave me in your heedlessness and to wander far; but fate has turned you back. Poor wretch that I am! What a yearning for Hellas from some woeful madness seized you at the behest of your father Phrixus. Bitter sorrows for my heart did he ordain when dying. And why should ye go to the city of Orchomenus, whoever this Orchomenus is, for the sake of Athamas' wealth, leaving your mother alone to bear her grief?"

ὥς ἔφατ'· Αἰήτης δὲ πανύστατος ὦρτο θύραζε,
ἐκ δ' αὐτῇ Εἰδυῖα δάμαρ κίεν Αἰήταο,
270 Χαλκιόπης αἰούσα· τὸ δ' αὐτίκα πᾶν ὁμάδοιο
ἔρκος ἐπεπλήθει. τοὶ μὲν μέγαν ἀμφιπένοντο
ταῦρον ἄλις δμῶες· τοὶ δὲ ξύλα κάγκανα χαλκῷ
κόπτον· τοὶ δὲ λοετρὰ πυρὶ ζέον· οὐδέ τις ἦεν,

[268] Such were her words; and Aeetes came forth last of all and Eidyia herself came, the queen of Aeetes, on hearing the voice of Chalciopē; and straightway all the court was filled with a throng. Some of the thralls were busied with a mighty bull, others with the axe were cleaving dry billets, and others heating with fire water for the baths; nor was there one who relaxed his toil, serving the king.

ὃς καμάτου μεθίσκεν, ὑποδρήσων βασιλῆι.
275 τόφρα δ' Ἔρως πολιοῖο δι' ἠέρος ἵξεν ἄφαντος,
τετρηχῶς, οἶόν τε νέαις ἐπὶ φορβάσιν οἷστρος
τέλλεται, ὃν τε μύωπα βοῶν κλείουσι νομῆες.
ᾧκα δ' ὑπὸ φλιήν προδόμῳ ἐνὶ τόξῳ τανύσσας
ιοδόκης ἀβλήτα πολύστονον ἐξέλετ' ἰόν.
280 ἐκ δ' ὄγε καρπαλίμοισι λαθὼν ποσὶν οὐδὸν ἄμειψεν
ὀξέα δενδίλων· αὐτῷ ὑπὸ βαιὸς ἐλυσθεῖς
Αἰσονίδῃ γλυφίδας μέσση ἐνικάτθετο νευρῇ,
ἰθὺς δ' ἀμφοτέρῃσι διασχόμενος παλάμησιν
ἦκ' ἐπὶ Μηδεῖῃ· τὴν δ' ἀμφασίῃ λάβε θυμόν.
285 αὐτὸς δ' ὑψορόφοιο παλιμπετὲς ἐκ μεγάροιο
καγχαλῶν ἦιξε· βέλος δ' ἐνεδαίετο κούρῃ
νέρθεν ὑπὸ κραδίῃ, φλογὶ εἵκελον· ἀντία δ' αἰεὶ
βάλλεν ὑπ' Αἰσονίδην ἀμαρύγματα, καὶ οἱ ἤντο
στηθέων ἐκ πυκινὰ καμάτῳ φρένες, οὐδέ τιν' ἄλλην
290 μνηστὶν ἔχεν, γλυκερῇ δὲ κατεΐβετο θυμὸν ἀνίη.
ὥς δὲ γυνὴ μαλερῷ περὶ κάρφεια χεύατο δαλῶ
χερνῆτις, τῇπερ ταλασήϊα ἔργα μέμηλεν,
ὥς κεν ὑπωρόφιον νύκτωρ σέλας ἐντύναιτο,
ἄγχι μάλ' ἐγρομένη· τὸ δ' ἀθέσφατον ἐξ ὀλίγοιο
295 δαλοῦ ἀνεγρόμενον σὺν κάρφεια πάντ' ἀμαθύνει·
τοῖος ὑπὸ κραδίῃ εἰλυμένος αἶθετο λάθρη

οὐλος Ἔρωσ· ἀπαλὰς δὲ μετετρωπᾶτο παρειὰς
ἐς χλόον, ἄλλοτ' ἔρευθος, ἀκηδείησι νόοιο.

[275] Meantime Eros passed unseen through the grey mist, causing confusion, as when against grazing heifers rises the gadfly, which oxherds call the breese. And quickly beneath the lintel in the porch he strung his bow and took from the quiver an arrow unshot before, messenger of pain. And with swift feet unmarked he passed the threshold and keenly glanced around; and gliding close by Aeson's son he laid the arrow-notch on the cord in the centre, and drawing wide apart with both hands he shot at Medea; and speechless amazement seized her soul. But the god himself flashed back again from the high-roofed hall, laughing loud; and the bolt burnt deep down in the maiden's heart like a flame; and ever she kept darting bright glances straight up at Aeson's son, and within her breast her heart panted fast through anguish, all remembrance left her, and her soul melted with the sweet pain. And as a poor woman heaps dry twigs round a blazing brand — a daughter of toil, whose task is the spinning of wool, that she may kindle a blaze at night beneath her roof, when she has waked very early — and the flame waxing wondrous great from the small brand consumes all the twigs together; so, coiling round her heart, burnt secretly Love the destroyer; and the hue of her soft cheeks went and came, now pale, now red, in her soul's distraction.

δμῶες δ' ὅπποτε δὴ σφιν ἐπαρτέα θῆκαν ἐδωδὴν,
300 αὐτοὶ τε λιανοῖσιν ἐφαιδρύναντο λοετροῖς,
ἀσπασίως δόρπῳ τε ποτῇτί τε θυμὸν ἄρεσσαν.
ἐκ δὲ τοῦ Αἰήτης σφετέρης ἐρέεινε θυγατρὸς
υἱᾶς τοίοισι παρηγορέων ἐπέεσσιν:
'παιδὸς ἐμῆς κοῦροι Φρίξοιό τε, τὸν περὶ πάντων
305 ξείνων ἡμετέροισιν ἐνὶ μεγάροισιν ἔτισα,
πῶς Αἰῶνδε νέεσθε παλίσσυτοι; ἦέ τις ἄτη
σωομένοις μεσσηγὺς ἐνέκλασεν; οὐ μὲν ἐμεῖο
πείθεσθε προφέροντος ἀπείρονα μέτρα κελεύθου.
ἦδεν γάρ ποτε πατρὸς ἐν ἄρμασιν Ἥελίοιο
310 δινεύσας, ὅτ' ἐμεῖο κασιγνήτην ἐκόμιζεν
Κίρκην ἐσπερίης εἴσω χθονός, ἐκ δ' ἰκόμεσθα
ἀκτὴν ἠπείρου Τυρσηνίδος, ἔνθ' ἔτι νῦν περ
ναιετάει, μάλα πολλὸν ἀπόπροθι Κολχίδος αἴης.
ἀλλὰ τί μύθων ἦδος; ἃ δ' ἐν ποσὶν ὕμιν ὄρωρεν,
315 εἶπατ' ἀριφραδέως, ἦδ' οὔτινες οἷδ' ἐφέπονται
ἄνερες, ὅππη τε γλαφυρῆς ἐκ νηὸς ἔβητε.'

[299] Now when the thralls had laid a banquet ready before them, and they had refreshed themselves with warm baths, gladly did they please their souls with meat and drink. And thereafter Aeetes questioned the sons of his daughter, addressing them with these words: "Sons of my daughter and of Phrixus,

whom beyond all strangers I honoured in my halls, how have ye come returning back to Aea? Did some calamity cut short your escape in the midst? Ye did not listen when I set before you the boundless length of the way. For I marked it once, whirled along in the chariot of my father Helios, when he was bringing my sister Circe to the western land and we came to the shore of the Tyrrhenian mainland, where even now she abides, exceeding far from Colchis. But what pleasure is there in words? Do ye tell me plainly what has been your fortune, and who these men are, your companions, and where from your hollow ship ye came ashore.”

τοῖά μιν ἐξερέοντα κασιγνήτων προπάροιθεν
Ἄργος ὑποδδείσας ἀμφὶ στόλῳ Αἰσονίδαο
μειλιχίως προσέειπεν, ἐπεὶ προγενέστερος ἦεν:
320 Ἀϊήτη, κείνην μὲν ἄφαρ διέχευαν ἄελλαι
ζαχρηεῖς· αὐτοὺς δ’ ἐπὶ δούρασι πεπτηῶτας
νήσου Ἐνναλίοιο ποτὶ ξερὸν ἔκβαλε κῦμα
λυγαίῃ ὑπὸ νυκτί· θεὸς δέ τις ἄμμ’ ἐσάωσεν.
οὐδὲ γὰρ αἶ τὸ πάροιθεν ἐρημαίην κατὰ νῆσον
325 ἠϋλίζοντ’ ὄρνιθες Ἀρήϊαι, οὐδ’ ἔτι κείνας
εὖρομεν. ἀλλ’ οἷγ’ ἄνδρες ἀπήλασαν, ἐξαποβάντες
νηὸς ἐῆς προτέρῳ ἐνὶ ἡματι· καὶ σφ’ ἀπέρυκεν
ἡμέας οἰκτείρων Ζηνὸς νόος, ἥε τις αἴσα,
αὐτίκ’ ἐπεὶ καὶ βρῶσιν ἄλις καὶ εἷματ’ ἔδωκαν,
330 οὖνομά τε Φρίξοιο περικλεῆς εἰσαΐοντες
ἦδ’ αὐτοῖο σέθεν· μετὰ γὰρ τεδὸν ἄστρῳ νέονται.
χρεῖώ δ’ ἦν ἐθέλης ἐξίδμεναι, οὐ σ’ ἐπικεύσω.
τόνδε τις ἰέμενος πάτρης ἀπάνευθεν ἐλάσσαι
καὶ κτεάνων βασιλεὺς περιώσιον, οὐνεκεν ἀλκῇ
335 σφωιτέρῃ τάντεσσι μετέπρεπεν Αἰολίδῃσιν,
πέμπει δεῦρο νέεσθαι ἀμήχανον· οὐδ’ ὑπαλῦξειν
στεῦνται ἀμειλίκτοιο Διὸς θυμαλγέα μῆνιν
καὶ χόλον, οὐδ’ ἄτλητον ἄγος Φρίξοιό τε ποινὰς
Αἰολιδέων γενεήν, πρὶν ἐς Ἑλλάδα κῶας ἰκέσθαι.
340 νῆα δ’ Ἀθηναίῃ Παλλὰς κάμεν, οὐ μάλα τοίην,
οἷαί περ Κόλχοισι μετ’ ἀνδράσι νῆες ἕασιν,
τάων αἰνοτάτης ἐπεκύρσαμεν. ἤλιθα γάρ μιν
λάβρον ὕδωρ πνοιή τε διέτμαγεν· ἡ δ’ ἐνὶ γόμοις
ἴσχεται, ἦν καὶ πᾶσαι ἐπιβρίσωσιν ἄελλαι.
345 Ἴσον δ’ ἐξ ἀνέμοιο θέει καὶ ὅτ’ ἄνδρες αὐτοῖ
νωλεμέως χεῖρεςσιν ἐπισπέρχωσιν ἐρετμοῖς.
τῇ δ’ ἐναγειράμενος Παναχαΐδος εἴ τι φέριστον
ἡρώων, τεδὸν ἄστρῳ μετήλυθε, πόλλ’ ἐπαληθεῖς
ἄστεα καὶ πελάγη στυγερῆς ἁλός, εἴ οἱ ὀπάσσαις.
350 αὐτῷ δ’ ὥς κεν ἄδη, τὼς ἕσσεται· οὐ γὰρ ἰκάνει
χερσὶ βησόμενος· μέμονεν δέ τοι ἄξια τίσειν

δωτίνης, αἰὼν ἐμέθεν μέγα δυσμενέοντας
Σαυρομάτας, τοὺς σοῖσιν ὑπὸ σκήπτροισι δαμάσσει.
εἰ δὲ καὶ οὖνομα δῆθεν ἐπιθύεις γενεὴν τε
355 ἴδμεναι, οἵτινές εἰσιν, ἕκαστά γε μυθησαίμην.
τόνδε μὲν, οἷό περ οὔνεκ' ἄφ' Ἑλλάδος ὄλλοι ἄγερθεν,
κλείουσ' Αἴσονος υἱὸν Ἴησονα Κρηθεῖδαο.
εἰ δ' αὐτοῦ Κρηθῆος ἐτήτυμόν ἐστι γενέθλης,
οὕτω κεν γνωτὸς πατρώιος ἄμμι πέλοιτο.
360 ἄμφω γὰρ Κρηθεὺς Ἀθάμας τ' ἔσαν Αἰόλου υἱεῖς·
Φρίξος δ' αὖτ' Ἀθάμαντος ἦν πάις Αἰολίδαο.
τόνδε δ' ἄρ', Ἥελίου γόνον ἔμμεναι εἴ τιν' ἀκούεις,
δέρκεαι Αὐγείην· Τελαμῶν δ' ὄγε, κυδίστοιο
Αἰακοῦ ἐκγεγάως· Ζεὺς δ' Αἰακὸν αὐτὸς ἔτικτεν.
365 ὧς δὲ καὶ ὄλλοι πάντες, ὅσοι συνέπονται ἐταῖροι,
ἄθανάτων υἱές τε καὶ υἰωνοὶ γεγάασιν.'

[317] Such were his questions, and Argus, before all his brethren, being fearful for the mission of Aeson's son, gently replied, for he was the elder-born: "Aeetes, that ship forthwith stormy blasts tore asunder, and ourselves, crouching on the beams, a wave drove on to the beach of the isle of Enyalios in the murky night; and some god preserved us. For even the birds of Ares that haunted the desert isle beforetime, not even them did we find. But these men had driven them off, having landed from their ship on the day before; and the will of Zeus taking pity on us, or some fate, detained them there, since they straightway gave us both food and clothing in abundance, when they heard the illustrious name of Phrixus and thine own; for to thy city are they faring. And if thou dost wish to know their errand, I will not hide it from time. A certain king, vehemently longing to drive this man far from his fatherland and possessions, because in might he outshone all the sons of Aeolus, sends him to voyage hither on a bootless venture; and asserts that the stock of Aeolus will not escape the heart-grieving wrath and rage of implacable Zeus, nor the unbearable curse and vengeance due for Phrixus, until the fleece comes back to Hellas. And their ship was fashioned by Pallas Athena, not such a one as are the ships among the Colchians, on the vilest of which we chanced. For the fierce waves and wind broke her utterly to pieces; but the other holds firm with her bolts, even though all the blasts should buffet her. And with equal swiftness she speedeth before the wind and when the crew ply the oar with unresting hands. And he hath gathered in her the mightiest heroes of all Achaea, and hath come to thy city from wandering far through cities and gulfs of the dread ocean, in the hope that thou wilt grant him the fleece. But as thou dost please, so shall it be, for he cometh not to use force, but is eager to pay thee a recompense for the gift. He has heard from me of thy bitter foes the Sauromatae, and he will subdue them to thy sway. And if thou desirest to know their names and lineage I will tell thee all. This man on whose account the rest were gathered from Hellas, they call Jason, son of Aeson, whom

Cretheus begat. And if in truth he is of the stock of Cretheus himself, thus he would be our kinsman on the father's side. For Cretheus and Athamas were both sons of Aeolus; and Phrixus was the son of Athamas, son of Aeolus. And here, if thou hast heard at all of the seed of Helios, thou dost behold Augeias; and this is Telamon sprung from famous Aeacus; and Zeus himself begat Aeacus. And so all the rest, all the comrades that follow him, are the sons or grandsons of the immortals."

τοῖα παρέννεπεν Ἄργος· ἄναξ δ' ἐπεχώσατο μύθοις
εἰσαΐων· ὑψοῦ δὲ χόλῳ φρένες ἠερέθοντο.
φῆ δ' ἐπαλαστήσας· μενέαινε δὲ παισὶ μάλιστα
370 Χαλκίοπης· τῶν γὰρ σφε μετελθέμεν οὐνεκ' ἐώλπει·
ἐκ δέ οἱ ὄμματ' ἔλαμψεν ὑπ' ὀφρύσιν ἰεμένοιο·
'οὐκ ἄφαρ ὀφθαλμῶν μοι ἀπόπροθι, λωβητῆρης,
νεῖσθ' αὐτοῖσι δόλοισι παλίσσυτοι ἔκτοθι γαίης,
πρίν τινα λευγαλέον τε δέρος καὶ Φρίξον ἰδέσθαι;
375 αὐτίχ' ὁμαρτήσαντες ἀφ' Ἑλλάδος, οὐκ ἐπὶ κῶας,
σκῆπτρα δὲ καὶ τιμὴν βασιλῆϊδα δεῦρο νέεσθε.
εἰ δέ κε μὴ προπάροιθεν ἐμῆς ἥψασθε τραπέζης,
ἧ τ' ἂν ἀπὸ γλώσσας τε ταμῶν καὶ χεῖρε κεάσσας
ἀμφοτέρας, οἷοισιν ἐπιπροέηκα πόδεςσιν,
380 ὥς κεν ἐρητύοισθε καὶ ὕστερον ὀρμηθῆναι,
οἷα δὲ καὶ μακάρεσσιν ἐπεψεύσασθε θεοῖσιν.'

[367] Such was the tale of Argus; but the king at his words was filled with rage as he heard; and his heart was lifted high in wrath. And he spake in heavy displeasure; and was angered most of all with the son of Chalciope; for he deemed that on their account the strangers had come; and in his fury his eyes flashed forth beneath his brows: "Begone from my sight, felons, straightway, ye and your tricks, from the land, ere someone see a fleece and a Phrixus to his sorrow. Banded together with your friends from Hellas, not for the fleece, but to seize my sceptre and royal power have ye come hither. Had ye not first tasted of my table, surely would I have cut out your tongues and hewn off both hands and sent you forth with your feet alone, so that ye might be stayed from starting hereafter. And what lies have ye uttered against the blessed gods!"

φῆ ῥα χαλεψάμενος· μέγα δὲ φρένες Αἰακίδαο
νειόθεν οἰδαίνεσκον· ἐέλδετο δ' ἔνδοθι θυμὸς
ἀντιβῆν ὀλοὸν φάσθαι ἔπος· ἀλλ' ἀπέρυκεν
385 Αἰσονίδης· πρὸ γὰρ αὐτὸς ἀμείψατο μελιχίοισιν·
'Αἰήτη, σχέο μοι τῷδε στόλῳ. οὐτι γὰρ αὐτως
ἄστν τεδὸν καὶ δώμαθ' ἰκάνομεν, ὥς που ἔολπας,
οὐδὲ μὲν ἰέμενοι. τίς δ' ἂν τόσον οἶδμα περῆσαι
τλαίῃ ἐκὼν ὀθνεῖον ἐπὶ κτέρας; ἀλλά με δαίμων

390 καὶ κρυερὴ βασιλῆος ἀτασθάλου ὥρσεν ἔφετμή.
 δὸς χάριν ἀντομένοισι: σέθεν δ' ἐγὼ Ἑλλάδι πάση
 θεσπεσίην οἴσω κληιδόνα: καὶ δέ τοι ἦδη
 πρόφρονές εἰμεν ἄρηι θοὴν ἀποτῖσαι ἀμοιβήν,
 εἴτ' οὖν Σαυρομάτας γε λιλαίειαι, εἴτε τιν' ἄλλον
 395 δῆμον σφωιτέροισιν ὑπὸ σκῆπτροισι δαμάσσαι.'

[382] Thus he spake in his wrath; and mightily from its depths swelled the heart of Aeacus' son, and his soul within longed to speak a deadly word in defiance, but Aeson's son checked him, for he himself first made gentle answer: "Aeetes, bear with this armed band, I pray. For not in the way thou deemest have we come to thy city and palace, no, nor yet with such desires. For who would of his own will dare to cross so wide a sea for the goods of a stranger? But fate and the ruthless command of a presumptuous king urged me. Grant a favour to thy suppliants, and to all Hellas will I publish a glorious fame of thee; yea, we are ready now to pay thee a swift recompense in war, whether it be the Sauromatae or some other people that thou art eager to subdue to thy sway."

Ἰσκεν ὑποσσαίνων ἀγανῇ ὅπι: τοῖο δὲ θυμὸς
 διχθαδίην πόρφυρεν ἐνὶ στήθεσσι μενοινήν,
 ἢ σφεας ὀρμηθεὶς αὐτοσχεδὸν ἐξεναρίζοι,
 ἢ ὅγε πειρήσαιο βίης. τό οἱ εἴσατ' ἄρειον
 400 φραζομένω: καὶ δὴ μιν ὑποβλήδην προσέειπεν:
 'ξεῖνε, τί κεν τὰ ἕκαστα διηνεκέως ἀγορευοῖς;
 εἰ γὰρ ἐτήτυμόν ἐστε θεῶν γένος, ἥε καὶ ἄλλως
 οὐδὲν ἐμεῖο χέρηες ἐπ' ὀθνείοισιν ἔβητε,
 δώσω τοι χρύσειον ἄγειν δέρος, αἶ κ' ἐθέλῃσθα,
 405 πειρηθεῖς. ἐσθλοῖς γὰρ ἐπ' ἀνδράσιν οὔτι μεγαίρω,
 ὥς αὐτοὶ μυθεῖσθε τὸν Ἑλλάδι κοιρανέοντα.
 πεῖρα δέ τοι μένεός τε καὶ ἀλκῆς ἔσσει' ἄεθλος,
 τόν ρ' αὐτὸς περίεμι χεροῖν ὀλοόν περ ἔοντα.
 δοιῶ μοι πεδῖον τὸ Ἀρήιον ἀμφινέμονται
 410 ταύρω χαλκόποδε, στόματι φλόγα φυσιόωντες:
 τοὺς ἐλάω ζεύξας στυφελὴν κατὰ νειὸν Ἄρηος
 τετράγνυν, τὴν αἶψα ταμῶν ἐπὶ τέλσον ἀρότρῳ
 οὐ σπόρον ὀλκοῖσιν Διοῦς ἐνιβάλλομαι ἀκτὴν,
 ἀλλ' ὄφιος δεινοῖο μεταλδήσκοντας ὀδόντας
 415 ἀνδράσι τευχιστῆσι δέμας. τοὺς δ' αὖθι δαΐζων
 κείρω ἐμῷ ὑπὸ δουρὶ περισταδὸν ἀντιώωντας.
 ἥριος ζεύγνυμι βόας, καὶ δείελον ὥρην
 παύομαι ἀμήτιο. σύ δ', εἰ τάδε τοῖα τελέσσεις,
 αὐτῆμαρ τόδε κῶας ἀποίσεις εἰς βασιλῆος:
 420 πρὶν δέ κεν οὐ δοίην, μηδ' ἔλπεο. δὴ γὰρ ἀεικέες
 ἄνδρ' ἀγαθὸν γεγαῶτα κακωτέρῳ ἀνέρι εἶξαι.'

[396] He spake, flattering him with gentle utterance; but the king's soul brooded a twofold purpose within him, whether he should attack and slay them on the spot or should make trial of their might. And this, as he pondered, seemed the better way, and he addressed Jason in answer: "Stranger, why needest thou go through thy tale to the end? For if ye are in truth of heavenly race, or have come in no wise inferior to me, to win the goods of strangers, I will give thee the fleece to bear away, if thou dost wish, when I have tried thee. For against brave men I bear no grudge, such as ye yourselves tell me of him who bears sway in Hellas. And the trial of your courage and might shall be a contest which I myself can compass with my hands, deadly though it be. Two bulls with feet of bronze I have that pasture on the plain of Ares, breathing forth flame from their jaws; them do I yoke and drive over the stubborn field of Ares, four plough-gates; and quickly cleaving it with the share up to the headland, I cast into the furrows the seed, not the corn of Demeter, but the teeth of a dread serpent that grow up into the fashion of armed men; them I slay at once, cutting them down beneath my spear as they rise against me on all sides. In the morning do I yoke the oxen, and at eventide I cease from the harvesting. And thou, if thou wilt accomplish such deeds as these, on that very day shalt carry off the fleece to the king's palace; ere that time comes I will not give it, expect it not. For indeed it is unseemly that a brave man should yield to a coward."

ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη: ὁ δὲ σῖγα ποδῶν πάρος ὄμματα πήξας
ἦστ' αὐτως ἄφθογγος, ἀμηχανέων κακότητι.
βουλὴν δ' ἀμφὶ πολὺν στρώφα χρόνον, οὐδὲ πῃ εἶχεν
425 θαρσαλέως ὑποδέχθαι, ἐπεὶ μέγα φαίνετο ἔργον:
ὄψε δ' ἀμειβόμενος προσελέξατο κερδαλέοισιν:
'Αἰήτη, μάλα τοί με δίκη περιπολλὸν ἐέργεις.
τῷ καὶ ἐγὼ τὸν ἄεθλον ὑπερφιάλὸν περ ἔοντα
τλήσομαι, εἰ καὶ μοι θανέειν μόρος. οὐ γὰρ ἔτ' ἄλλο
430 ρίγιον ἀνθρώποισι κακῆς ἐπικείσεται ἀνάγκης,
ἦ με καὶ ἐνθάδε νεῖσθαι ἐπέχραεν ἐκ βασιλῆος.'

[422] Thus he spake; and Jason, fixing his eyes on the ground, sat just as he was, speechless, helpless in his evil plight. For a long time he turned the matter this way and that, and could in no way take on him the task with courage, for a mighty task it seemed; and at last he made reply with crafty words: "With thy plea of right, Aeetes, thou dost shut me in overmuch. Wherefore also I will dare that contest, monstrous as it is, though it be my doom to die. For nothing will fall upon men more dread than dire necessity, which indeed constrained me to come hither at a king's command."

ὥς φάτ' ἀμηχανίη βεβολημένος: αὐτὰρ ὁ τόνγε
σμερδαλέοις ἐπέεσσι προσέννεπεν ἀσχαλῶντα:
'ἔρχεο νῦν μεθ' ὄμιλον, ἐπεὶ μέμονάς γε πόνοιο:

435 εἰ δὲ σὺγε ζυγὰ βουσὶν ὑποδδείςαις ἐπαείραι,
ἥ ἐ καὶ οὐλομένου μεταχάσσειαι ἀμήτιοι,
αὐτῷ κεν τὰ ἕκαστα μέλοιτό μοι, ὄφρα καὶ ἄλλος
ἀνὴρ ἐρρίγησιν ἀρείονα φῶτα μετελθεῖν.'

[432] Thus he spake, smitten by his helpless plight; and the king with grim words addressed him, sore troubled as he was: "Go forth now to the gathering, since thou art eager for the toil; but if thou shouldst fear to lift the yoke upon the oxen or shrink from the deadly harvesting, then all this shall be my care, so that another too may shudder to come to a man that is better than he."

Ἴσκεν ἀπηλεγέως· ὁ δ' ἀπὸ θρόνου ὤρνυτ' Ἴησων,
440 Αὐγείης Τελαμών τε παρασχεδόν· εἶπετο δ' Ἄργος
οἶος, ἐπεὶ μεσσηγὺς ἔτ' αὐτόθι νεῦσε λιπέσθαι
αὐτοκασιγνήτοις· οἱ δ' ἦισαν ἐκ μεγάροιο.
θεσπέσιον δ' ἐν πᾶσι μετέπρεπεν Αἴσονος υἱὸς
κάλλει καὶ χαρίτεσσιν· ἐπ' αὐτῷ δ' ὄμματα κούρη
445 λοξὰ παρὰ λιπαρὴν σχομένη θηεῖτο καλύπτρην,
κῆρ ἄχει σμύχουσα· νόος δέ οἱ ἤνυτ' ὄνειρος
ἐρπύζων πεπότητο μετ' ἵχνια νισσομένοιο.
καὶ ῥ' οἱ μέν ῥα δόμων ἐξήλυθον ἀσχαλόωντες.
Χαλκίωπη δὲ χόλον πεφυλαγμένη Αἰήταο
450 καρπαλίμως θάλαμόνδε σὺν νιάσιν οἷσι βεβήκει.
αὐτῶς δ' αὖ Μήδεια μετέστιχε· πολλὰ δὲ θυμῷ
ῥομαίν', ὅσσα τ' Ἑρωτες ἐποτρύνουσι μέλεσθαι.
προπρὸ δ' ἄρ' ὀφθαλμῶν ἔτι οἱ ἰνδάλλετο πάντα,
αὐτός θ' οἶος ἔην, οἷοισί τε φάρεσιν ἔστο,
455 οἷά τ' ἔειπ', ὥς θ' ἔζετ' ἐπὶ θρόνου, ὥς τε θύραζε
ἦεν· οὐδέ τιν' ἄλλον οἴσσατο πορφύρουσα
ἔμμεναι ἀνέρα τοῖον· ἐν οὔασι δ' αἰὲν ὀρώρει
αὐδὴ τε μῦθοι τε μελίφρονες, οὓς ἀγόρευσεν.
τάρβει δ' ἀμφ' αὐτῷ, μή μιν βόες ἥ ἐ καὶ αὐτὸς
460 Αἰήτης φθίσειεν· ὀδύρετο δ' ἤνυτε πάμπαν
ἤδη τεθνεῖωτα, τέρεν δέ οἱ ἀμφὶ παρειᾶς
δάκρυον αἰνοτάτῳ ἐλέῳ ῥέε κηδοσύνησιν·
ἦκα δὲ μυρομένη λιγέως ἀνενεύκατο μῦθον·
'τίποτε με δειλαίην τόδ' ἔχει ἄχος; εἴθ' ὄγε πάντων
465 φθίσεται ἡρώων προφερέστατος, εἴτε χερείων,
ἐρρέτω. ἦ μὲν ὄφελλεν ἀκήριος ἐξαλέασθαι.
ναὶ δὴ τοῦτό γε, πότνα θεὰ Περσὴν, πέλοιτο,
οἴκαδε νοστήσειε φυγῶν μόρον· εἰ δέ μιν αἶσα
δημηῆναι ὑπὸ βουσί, τόδε προπάραιθε δαείη,
470 οὔνεκεν οὐ οἱ ἔγωγε κακῇ ἐπαγαίομαι ἄτη.'

[439] He spake outright; and Jason rose from his seat, and Augeias and Telamon

at once; and Argus followed alone, for he signed to his brothers to stay there on the spot meantime; and so they went forth from the hall. And wonderfully among them all shone the son of Aeson for beauty and grace; and the maiden looked at him with stealthy glance, holding her bright veil aside, her heart smouldering with pain; and her soul creeping like a dream flitted in his track as he went. So they passed forth from the palace sorely troubled. And Chalciope, shielding herself from the wrath of Aeetes, had gone quickly to her chamber with her sons. And Medea likewise followed, and much she brooded in her soul all the cares that the Loves awaken. And before her eyes the vision still appeared — himself what like he was, with what vesture he was clad, what things he spake, how he sat on his seat, how he moved forth to the door — and as she pondered she deemed there never was such another man; and ever in her ears rung his voice and the honey-sweet words which he uttered. And she feared for him, lest the oxen or Aeetes with his own hand should slay him; and she mourned him as though already slain outright, and in her affliction a round tear through very grievous pity coursed down her cheek; and gently weeping she lifted up her voice aloud: “Why does this grief come upon me, poor wretch? Whether he be the best of heroes now about to perish, or the worst, let him go to his doom. Yet I would that he had escaped unharmed; yea, may this be so, revered goddess, daughter of Perses, may he avoid death and return home; but if it be his lot to be o’ermastered by the oxen, may he first learn this, that I at least do not rejoice in his cruel calamity.”

ἡ μὲν ἄρ' ὥς ἐόλητο νόον μελεδήμασι κούρη.
οἱ δ' ἐπεὶ οὖν δήμου τε καὶ ἄστεος ἐκτὸς ἔβησαν
τὴν ὁδόν, ἣν τὸ πάροιθεν ἀνήλυθον ἐκ πεδίοιο,
δὴ τότε Ἴησωνα τοῖσδε προσέννεπεν Ἄργος ἔπεσσιν:
475 'Αἰσονίδη, μῆτιν μὲν ὀνόσσειαι, ἦντιν' ἐνίψω:
πείρης δ' οὐ μάλ' ἔοικε μεθιέμεν ἐν κακότητι.
κούρην δὴ τινα πρόσθεν ὑπέκλυες αὐτὸς ἐμεῖο
φαρμάσσειν Ἑκάτης Περσηίδος ἐννεσίησιν.
τὴν εἴ κεν πεπίθοιμεν, οἶομαι, οὐκέτι τάρβος
480 ἔσσειτ' ἀεθλεύοντι δαμήμεναι: ἀλλὰ μάλ' αἰνῶς
δεῖδω, μὴ πως οὐ μοι ὑποσταίῃ τόγε μήτηρ.
ἔμπης δ' ἐξαῦτις μετελεύσομαι ἀντιβολήσων,

[471] Thus then was the maiden's heart racked by love- cares. But when the others had gone forth from the people and the city, along the path by which at the first they had come from the plain, then Argus addressed Jason with these words: “Son of Aeson, thou wilt despise the counsel which I will tell thee, but, though in evil plight, it is not fitting to forbear from the trial. Ere now thou hast heard me tell of a maiden that uses sorcery under the guidance of Hecate, Perses' daughter. If we could win her aid there will be no dread, methinks, of thy defeat in the contest; but terribly do I fear that my mother

will not take this task upon her. Nevertheless I will go back again to entreat her, for a common destruction overhangs us all.”

ζυνὸς ἐπεὶ πάντεσσιν ἐπικρέμαθ' ἡμιν ὄλεθρος.⁷
Ἴσκεν εὐφρονέων· ὁ δ' ἀμείβετο τοῖσδ' ἐπέεσσιν:
485 ὦ πέπον, εἴ νύ τοι αὐτῷ ἐφاندάνει, οὔτι μεγαίρω.
βάσκ' ἴθι καὶ πυκινοῖσι τεῖν παρὰ μητέρα μύθοις
ὄρνυθι λισσόμενος· μελέη γε μὲν ἡμιν ὄρωρεν
ἐλπωρή, ὅτε νόστον ἐπετραπόμεσθα γυναιξίν.⁸
ὥς ἔφατ'· ὦκα δ' ἔλος μετεκίαθον. αὐτὰρ ἐταῖροι
490 γηθόσυνον ἐρέεινον, ὅπως παρεόντας ἴδοντο:
τοῖσιν δ' Αἰσονίδης τετιημένος ἔκφατο μῦθον:
ὦ φίλοι, Αἰήταο ἀπηνέος ἄμμι φίλον κῆρ
ἀντικρὺ κεχόλωται, ἕκαστα γὰρ οὔ νύ τι τέκμωρ
οὔτ' ἐμοί, οὔτε κεν ὕμμι διειρομένοισι πέλοιτο.
495 φῆ δὲ δῶυ πεδίον τὸ Ἀρήιον ἀμφινέμεσθαι
ταύρω χαλκόποδε, στόματι φλόγα φυσιόωντας.
τετράγυνον δ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ἐφίετο νειὸν ἄρόσσαι:
δώσειν δ' ἐξ ὄφιος γενύων σπόρον, ὅς ρ' ἀνίησιν
γηγενέας χαλκέοις σὺν τεύχεσιν· ἡματι δ' αὐτῷ
500 χρεῖω τούσγε δαΐξαι. ὁ δὲ νύ οἱ — οὔτι γὰρ ἄλλο
βέλτερον ἦν φράσασθαι — ἀπηλεγέως ὑποέστην.⁹

[483] He spake with goodwill, and Jason answered with these words: “Good friend, if this is good in thy sight, I say not nay. Go and move thy mother, beseeching her aid with prudent words; pitiful indeed is our hope when we have put our return in the keeping of women.” So he spake, and quickly they reached the back-water. And their comrades joyfully questioned them, when they saw them close at hand; and to them spoke Aeson’s son grieved at heart: “My friends, the heart of ruthless Aeetes is utterly filled with wrath against us, for not at all can the goal be reached either by me or by you who question me. He said that two bulls with feet of bronze pasture on the plain of Ares, breathing forth flame from their jaws. And with these he bade me plough the field, four plough-gates; and said that he would give me from a serpent’s jaws seed which will raise up earthborn men in armour of bronze; and on the same day I must slay them. This task — for there was nothing better to devise — I took on myself outright.”

ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη· πάντεσσι δ' ἀνήνυτος εἷσατ' ἄεθλος,
δὴν δ' ἄνεω καὶ ἄναυδοι ἐς ἀλλήλους ὁρώωντο,
ἄτη ἀμηχανίη τε κατηφές· ὃψὲ δὲ Πηλεὺς
505 θαρσαλέως μετὰ πᾶσιν ἀριστήεσσιν ἔειπεν:
ὥρῃ μητιάσθαι ὃ κ' ἔρξομεν. οὐ μὲν ἔολπα
βουλῆς εἶναι ὄνειαρ, ὅσον τ' ἐπὶ κάρτει χειρῶν.
εἰ μὲν νυν τύνη ζεῦξαι βόας Αἰήταο,

ἥρως Αἰσονίδῃ, φρονέεις, μέμονάς τε πόνοιο,
510 ἦ τ' ἂν ὑποσχεσὶν πεφυλαγμένος ἐντύναιο:
εἰ δ' οὐ τοι μάλα θυμὸς ἐπὶ πάγχυ πέποιθεν
ἡγορέῃ, μήτ' αὐτὸς ἐπείγῃ, μήτε τιν' ἄλλον
τῶνδ' ἀνδρῶν πάπταινε παρήμενος. οὐ γὰρ ἔγωγε
σχῆσομ', ἐπεὶ θάνατός γε τὸ κύντατον ἔσσεται ἄλγος.'

[502] Thus he spake; and to all the contest seemed one that none could accomplish, and long, quiet and silent, they looked at one another, bowed down with the calamity and their despair; but at last Peleus spake with courageous words among all the chiefs: "It is time to be counselling what we shall do. Yet there is not so much profit, I trow, in counsel as in the might of our hands. If thou then, hero son of Aeson, art minded to yoke Aeetes' oxen, and art eager for the toil, surely thou wilt keep thy promise and make thyself ready. But if thy soul trusts not her prowess utterly, then neither bestir thyself nor sit still and look round for some one else of these men. For it is not I who will flinch, since the bitterest pain will be but death."

515 ὥς ἔφατ' Αἰακίδης: Τελαμῶνι δὲ θυμὸς ὀρίνθη:
σπερχόμενος δ' ἀνόρουσε θεῶς: ἐπὶ δὲ τρίτος Ἴδας
ᾧρτο μέγα φρονέων, ἐπὶ δ' υἷε Τυνδαρέοιο:
σὺν δὲ καὶ Οἰνεΐδης ἐναριθμῖος αἰζηοῖσιν
ἀνδράσιν, οὐδὲ περ ὅσσον ἐπανθιόωντας ἰούλους
520 ἀντέλλων: τοίῳ οἱ ἀείρετο κάρτεϊ θυμός.
οἱ δ' ἄλλοι εἷξαντες ἀκὴν ἔχον. αὐτίκα δ' Ἄργος
τοῖον ἔπος μετέειπεν ἐλδομένοισιν ἀέθλου:
'ὦ φίλοι, ἦτοι μὲν τόδε λοίσθιον. ἀλλὰ τιν' οἶω
μητρὸς ἐμῆς ἔσσεσθαι ἐναΐσιμον ὕμιν ἀρωγὴν.
525 τῷ καὶ περ μεμαῶτες, ἐρητύοισθ' ἐνὶ νηὶ
τυτθὸν ἔθ', ὥς τὸ πάροιθεν, ἐπεὶ καὶ ἐπισχέμεν ἔμπης
λῶιον, ἢ κακὸν οἶτον ἀφειδήσαντας ἐλέσθαι.
κούρη τις μεγάροισιν ἐντρέφεται Αἰήταο,
τὴν Ἑκάτη περίαλλα θεὰ δάε τεχνήσασθαι
530 φάρμαχ', ὅς' ἡπειρός τε φύει καὶ νήχυτον ὕδωρ,
τοῖσι καὶ ἀκαμάτοιο πρὸς μελίσσεται ἀντμή,
καὶ ποταμοὺς ἴστησιν ἄφαρ κελαδαινὰ ρέοντας,
ἄστρα τε καὶ μήνης ἱερῆς ἐπέδῃσε κελεύθους.
τῆς μὲν ἀπὸ μεγάροιο κατὰ στίβον ἐνθάδ' ἰόντες
535 μνησάμεθ', εἴ κε δύναιτο, κασιγνήτῃ γεγαυῖα,
μήτηρ ἡμετέρη πεπιθεῖν ἐπαρῆξαι ἀέθλῳ.
εἰ δὲ καὶ αὐτοῖσιν τόδ' ἐφανεῖται, ἦ τ' ἂν ἰκοίμην
ἡματι τῷδ' αὐτῷ πάλιν εἰς δόμον Αἰήταο
πειρήσων: τάχα δ' ἂν σὺν δαίμονι πειρηθεῖην.'

[515] So spake the son of Aeacus; and Telamon's soul was stirred, and quickly

he started up in eagerness; and Idas rose up the third in his pride; and the twin sons of Tyndareus; and with them Oeneus' son who was numbered among strong men, though even the soft down on his cheek showed not yet; with such courage was his soul uplifted. But the others gave way to these in silence. And straightway Argus spake these words to those that longed for the contest: "My friends, this indeed is left us at the last. But I deem that there will come to you some timely aid from my mother. Wherefore, eager though ye be, refrain and abide in your ship a little longer as before, for it is better to forbear than recklessly to choose an evil fate. There is a maiden, nurtured in the halls of Aeetes, whom the goddess Hecate taught to handle magic herbs with exceeding skill all that the land and flowing waters produce. With them is quenched the blast of unwearied flame, and at once she stays the course of rivers as they rush roaring on, and checks the stars and the paths of the sacred moon. Of her we bethought us as we came hither along the path from the palace, if haply my mother, her own sister, might persuade her to aid us in the venture. And if this is pleasing to you as well, surely on this very day will I return to the palace of Aeetes to make trial; and perchance with some god's help shall I make the trial."

540 ὧς φάτο· τοῖσι δὲ σῆμα θεοὶ δόσαν εὐμενέοντες.

τρηρὼν μὲν φεύγουσα βίην κίρκοιο πελειᾶς
ὑπόθεν Αἰσονίδεω πεφοβημένη ἔμπεσε κόλποις·
κίρκος δ' ἀφλάστῳ περικάππεσεν. ὦκα δὲ Μόψος
τοῖον ἔπος μετὰ πᾶσι θεοπροπέων ἀγόρευσεν·

545 ὕμμι, φίλοι, τόδε σῆμα θεῶν ἰότητι τέτυκται·

οὐδέ τη ἄλλως ἐστὶν ὑποκρίνασθαι ἄρειον,
παρθενικὴν δ' ἐπέεσσι μετελθέμεν ἀμφιέποντας
μήτι παντοίῃ. δοκέω δέ μιν οὐκ ἀθερίζειν,
εἰ ἐτεὸν Φινεύς γε θεᾶ ἐνὶ Κύπριδι νόστον

550 πέφραδεν ἔσσεσθαι. κείνης δ' ὄγε μείλιχος ὄρνις

πότμον ὑπεξήλυξε· κέαρ δέ μοι ὥς ἐνὶ θυμῷ
τόνδε κατ' οἰωνὸν προτιόσσεται, ὧς δὲ πέλοιτο.

ἀλλὰ, φίλοι, Κυθέρειαν ἐπικλείοντες ἀμύνειν,
ἥδη νῦν Ἀργοιο παραιφασίησι πίθεσθε.'

[540] Thus he spake, and the gods in their goodwill gave them a sign. A trembling dove in her flight from a mighty hawk fell from on high, terrified, into the lap of Aeson's son, and the hawk fell impaled on the stern-ornament. And quickly Mopsus with prophetic words spake among them all: "For you, friends, this sign has been wrought by the will of heaven; in no other way is it possible to interpret its meaning better, than to seek out the maiden and entreat her with manifold skill. And I think she will not reject our prayer, if in truth Phineus said that our return should be with the help of the Cyprian goddess. It was her gentle bird that escaped death; and as my heart within me foresees according to this omen, so may it prove! But, my friends, let us call on

Cytherea to aid us, and now at once obey the counsels of Argus.”

555 Ἴσκεν: ἐπήνησαν δὲ νέοι, Φινῆος ἐφετμὰς
μνησάμενοι: μῶνος δ' Ἀφαρήιος ἄνθορεν Ἴδας,
δεῖν' ἐπαλαστήσας μεγάλη ὀπί, φώνησέν τε:
'ὦ πόποι, ἦ ῥα γυναιξὶν ὁμόστολοι ἐνθάδ' ἔβημεν,
οἱ Κύπριν καλέουσιν ἐπίρροθον ἄμμι πέλεσθαι,
560 οὐκέτ' Ἐνυαλίῳ μέγα σθένος; ἐς δὲ πελείας
καὶ κίρκους λεύσσοντες ἐρητύεσθε ἀέθλων;
ἔρρετε, μὴδ' ὕμιν πολεμῆια ἔργα μέλοιτο,
παρθενικὰς δὲ λιτῆσιν ἀνάγκιδας ἠπεροπεύειν.'

[555] He spake, and the warriors approved, remembering the injunctions of Phineus; but all alone leapt up Apharcian Idas and shouted loudly in terrible wrath: “Shame on us, have we come here fellow voyagers with women, calling on Cypris for help and not on the mighty strength of Enyalios? And do ye look to doves and hawks to save yourselves from contests? Away with you, take thought not for deeds of war, but by supplication to beguile weakling girls.”

ὧς ἡῦδα μεμαώς: πολέες δ' ὁμάδησαν ἐταῖροι
565 ἦκα μάλ', οὐδ' ἄρα τίς οἱ ἐναντίον ἔκφατο μῦθον.
χωόμενος δ' ὄγ' ἔπειτα καθέζετο: τοῖσι δ' Ἰήσων
αὐτίκ' ἐποτρύνων τὸν ἐὼν νόον ᾧδ' ἀγόρευεν:
“Ἄργος μὲν παρὰ νηὸς, ἐπεὶ τόδε πᾶσιν ἔαδεν,
στελλέσθω: ἀτὰρ αὐτοὶ ἐπὶ χθονὸς ἐκ ποταμοῖο
570 ἀμφαδὸν ἦδη πείσματ' ἀνάψομεν. ἦ γὰρ ἔοικεν
μηκέτι δὴν κρύπτεσθαι ὑποπτήσσοντας αὐτήν.'

[564] Such were his eager words; and of his comrades many murmured low, but none uttered a word of answer back. And he sat down in wrath; and at once Jason roused them and uttered his own thought: “Let Argus set forth from the ship, since this pleases all; but we will now move from the river and openly fasten our hawsers to the shore. For surely it is not fitting for us to hide any longer cowering from the battle-cry.”

ὧς ἄρ' ἔφη: καὶ τὸν μὲν ἄφαρ προΐαλλε νέεσθαι
καρπαλίμως ἐξαῦτις ἀνὰ πτόλιν: οἱ δ' ἐπὶ νηὸς
εὐναίας ἐρύσαντες ἐφετμαῖς Αἰσονίδαο
575 τυτθὸν ὑπὲξ ἔλεος χέρσῳ ἐπέκελσαν ἐρετμοῖς.

[572] So he spake, and straightway sent Argus to return in haste to the city; and they drew the anchors on board at the command of Aeson's son, and rowed the ship close to the shore, a little away from the back-water.

αὐτίκα δ' Αἰήτης ἀγορὴν ποιήσατο Κόλχων
νόσφιν ἐοῖο δόμου, τόθι περ καὶ πρόσθε κάθιζον,

ἀτλήτους Μινύησι δόλους καὶ κήδεα τεύχων.
 στεῦτο δ', ἐπεὶ κεν πρῶτα βόες διαδηλήσωνται
 580 ἄνδρα τόν, ὃς ῥ' ὑπέδεκτο βαρὺν καμῆεσθαι ἄεθλον,
 δρυμὸν ἀναρρήξας λασίης καθύπερθε· κολώνης
 αὐτανδρον φλέξειν δόρυ νήιον, ὄφρ' ἄλγεινὴν
 ὕβριν ἀποφλύξωσιν ὑπέρβια μηχανόωντες.
 οὐδὲ γὰρ Αἰολίδην Φρίξον μάλα περ χατέοντα
 585 δέχθαι ἐνὶ μεγάροισιν ἐφέστιον, ὃς περὶ πάντων
 ξείνων μελιχίῃ τε θεουδείῃ τ' ἐκέκαστο,
 εἰ μὴ οἱ Ζεὺς αὐτὸς ἀπ' οὐρανοῦ ἄγγελον ἦκεν
 Ἑρμείαν, ὥς κεν προσκηδέος ἀντιάσειεν·
 μὴ καὶ ληιστήρας ἔην ἐς γαῖαν ἰόντας
 590 ἔσσεσθαι δηναῖον ἀπήμονας, οἷσι μέμηλεν
 ὀθνείοις ἐπὶ χεῖρα ἔην κτεάτεσσιν αἰεῖρειν,
 κρυπταδίοις τε δόλους τεκταινέμεν, ἡδὲ βοτήρων
 αὔλια δυσκελάδοισιν ἐπιδρομήσι δαΐξαι.
 νόσφι δὲ οἱ αὐτῷ φάτ' ἐοικότα μείλια τίσειν
 595 υἱῆας Φρίξοιο, κακορρέκτησιν ὀπηδοῦς
 ἀνδράσι νοστήσαντας ὀμιλαδόν, ὄφρα ἔ τιμῆς
 καὶ σκῆπτρων ἐλάσειαν ἀκηδέες· ὥς ποτε βάζιν
 λευγαλέην οὐ πατρὸς ἐπέκλυεν Ἥελίοιο,
 χρειῶ μιν πυκινόν τε δόλον βουλὰς τε γενέθλης
 600 σφωιτέρης ἄτην τε πολύτροπον ἐξαλέασθαι·
 τῷ καὶ ἐελδομένους πέμπειν ἐς Ἀχαιίδα γαῖαν
 πατρὸς ἐφημοσύνη, δολιχὴν ὁδόν. οὐδὲ θυγατρῶν
 εἶναί οἱ τυτθόν γε δέος, μὴ ποῦ τινα μῆτιν
 φράσσωνται στυγερήν, οὐδ' υἱόος Ἀψύρτοιο·
 605 ἀλλ' ἐνὶ Χαλκιόπης γενεῇ τάδε λυγρὰ τετύχθαι.
 καὶ ῥ' ὁ μὲν ἄσχετα ἔργα πιφαύσκετο δημοτέροισιν
 χαόμενος· μέγα δέ σφιν ἀπέειλε νῆά τ' ἔρυσθαι
 ἥδ' αὐτούς, ἵνα μήτις ὑπὲρ κακότητος ἀλύξῃ.

[576] But straightway Aeetes held an assembly of the Colchians far aloof from his palace at a spot where they sat in times before, to devise against the Minyae grim treachery and troubles. And he threatened that when first the oxen should have torn in pieces the man who had taken upon him to perform the heavy task, he would hew down the oak grove above the wooded hill, and burn the ship and her crew, that so they might vent forth in ruin their grievous insolence, for all their haughty schemes. For never would he have welcomed the Aeolid Phrixus as a guest in his halls, in spite of his sore need, Phrixus, who surpassed all strangers in gentleness and fear of the gods, had not Zeus himself sent Hermes his messenger down from heaven, so that he might meet with a friendly host; much less would pirates coming to his land be let go scatheless for long, men whose care it was to lift their hands and seize the goods of others, and to weave secret webs of guile, and harry the steadings of

herdsmen with ill-sounding forays. And he said that besides all that the sons of Phrixus should pay a fitting penalty to himself for returning in consort with evildoers, that they might recklessly drive him from his honour and his throne; for once he had heard a baleful prophecy from his father Helios, that he must avoid the secret treachery and schemes of his own offspring and their crafty mischief. Wherefore he was sending them, as they desired, to the Achaean land at the bidding of their father — a long journey. Nor had he ever so slight a fear of his daughters, that they would form some hateful scheme, nor of his son Apsyrus; but this curse was being fulfilled in the children of Chalciope. And he proclaimed terrible things in his rage against the strangers, and loudly threatened to keep watch over the ship and its crew, so that no one might escape calamity.

τόφρα δὲ μητέρ' ἔην, μετιῶν δόμον Αἰήταο,
610 Ἄργος παντοίοισι παρηγορέεσκ' ἐπέεσσιν,
Μήδειαν λίσσεσθαι ἀμυνέμεν: ἡ δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ
πρόσθεν μητιάσκε: δέος δέ μιν ἴσχανε θυμόν,
μή πως ἡὲ παρ' αἷσαν ἐτώσια μειλίζαιτο
πατρὸς ἀτυζομένην ὀλοὸν χόλον, ἡὲ λιτῆσιν
615 ἐσπομένης ἀρίδηλα καὶ ἀμφαδὰ ἔργα πέλοιτο.

[609] Meantime Argus, going to Aeetes' palace, with manifold pleading besought his mother to pray Medea's aid; and Chalciope herself already had the same thoughts, but fear checked her soul lest haply either fate should withstand and she should entreat her in vain, all distraught as she would be at her father's deadly wrath, or, if Medea yielded to her prayers, her deeds should be laid bare and open to view.

κούρην δ' ἐξ ἀχέων ἀδινὸς κατελώφεεν ὕπνος
λέκτρῳ ἀνακλινθεῖσαν. ἄφαρ δέ μιν ἡπεροπῆες,
οἷά τ' ἀκηχεμένην, ὀλοοὶ ἐρέθεσκον ὄνειροι.
τὸν ξεῖνον δ' ἐδόκησεν ὑφεστάμεναι τὸν ἄεθλον,
620 οὔτι μάλ' ὀρμαίνοντα δέρος κριοῖο κομίσσαι,
οὐδέ τι τοῖο ἔκητι μετὰ πτόλιν Αἰήταο
ἐλθέμεν, ὄφρα δέ μιν σφέτερον δόμον εἰσαγάγοιτο
κουριδίην παράκοιτιν: οἶετο δ' ἀμφὶ βόεσσιν
αὐτὴ ἀεθλεύουσα μάλ' εὐμαρέως πονέεσθαι:
625 σφωιτέρους δὲ τοκῆας ὑποσχεσίης ἀθερίζειν,
οὔνεκεν οὐ κούρη ζευξαι βόας, ἀλλὰ οἱ αὐτῷ
προύθεσαν: ἐκ δ' ἄρα τοῦ νεῖκος πέλεν ἀμφήριστον
πατρί τε καὶ ξείνοισι: αὐτῇ δ' ἐπιέτρεπον ἄμφω
τὼς ἔμεν, ὥς κεν ἔῃσι μετὰ φρεσὶν ἰθύσειεν.
630 ἡ δ' ἄφνω τὸν ξεῖνον, ἀφειδήσασα τοκῆων,
εἶλετο: τοὺς δ' ἀμέγαρτον ἄχος λάβεν, ἐκ δ' ἐβόησαν
χωόμενοι: τὴν δ' ὕπνος ἅμα κλαγγῇ μεθέηκεν.

παλλομένη δ' ἀνόρουσε φόβῳ, περί τ' ἀμφί τε τοίχους
πάπτηνεν θαλάμοιο: μόλις δ' ἐσαγείρατο θυμὸν
635 ὥς πάρος ἐν στέρνοις, ἀδινὴν δ' ἀνενείκατο φωνήν:
'δειλὴ ἐγὼν, οἷόν με βαρεῖς ἐφόβησαν ὄνειροι.
δεΐδια, μὴ μέγα δὴ τι φέρη κακὸν ἦδε κέλευθος
ἡρώων. περί μοι ξείνῳ φρένες ἡερέθονται.
μνάσθω ἐὼν κατὰ δῆμον Ἀχαιίδα τηλόθι κούρην
640 ἄμμι δὲ παρθενίῃ τε μέλοι καὶ δῶμα τοκίων.
ἔμπα γε μὴν θεμένη κύνεον κέαρ, οὐκέτ' ἄνευθεν
αὐτοκασιγνήτης πειρήσομαι, εἴ κέ μ' ἀέθλω
χραιομεῖν ἀντιάσῃσιν, ἐπὶ σφετέροις ἀχέουσα
παισί: τό κέν μοι λυγρὸν ἐνὶ κραδίῃ σβέσαι ἄλγος.'

[616] Now a deep slumber had relieved the maiden from her love-pains as she lay upon her couch. But straightway fearful dreams, deceitful, such as trouble one in grief, assailed her. And she thought that the stranger had taken on him the contest, not because he longed to win the ram's fleece, and that he had not come on that account to Aetes' city, but to lead her away, his wedded wife, to his own home; and she dreamed that herself contended with the oxen and wrought the task with exceeding ease; and that her own parents set at naught their promise, for it was not the maiden they had challenged to yoke the oxen but the stranger himself; from that arose a contention of doubtful issue between her father and the strangers; and both laid the decision upon her, to be as she should direct in her mind. But she suddenly, neglecting her parents, chose the stranger. And measureless anguish seized them and they shouted out in their wrath; and with the cry sleep released its hold upon her. Quivering with fear she started up, and stared round the walls of her chamber, and with difficulty did she gather her spirit within her as before, and lifted her voice aloud: "Poor wretch, how have gloomy dreams affrighted me! I fear that this voyage of the heroes will bring some great evil. My heart is trembling for the stranger. Let him woo some Achaean girl far away among his own folk; let maidenhood be mine and the home of my parents. Yet, taking to myself a reckless heart, I will no more keep aloof but will make trial of my sister to see if she will entreat me to aid in the contest, through grief for her own sons; this would quench the bitter pain in my heart."

645 ἦ ῥα, καὶ ὀρθωθεῖσα θύρας ὦιξε δόμοιο,
νήλιπος, οἰέανος: καὶ δὴ λελίητο νέεσθαι
αὐτοκασιγνήτηνδε, καὶ ἔρκεος οὐδὸν ἄμειπεν.
δὴν δὲ καταυτόθι μίμνεν ἐνὶ προδόμῳ θαλάμοιο,
αἰδοῖ ἐεργομένη: μετὰ δ' ἐτράπετ' αὖτις ὅπισσιν
650 στρεφθεῖσ': ἐκ δὲ πάλιν κίεν ἔνδοθεν, ἅψ τ' ἀλέεινεν
εἴσω: τηῦσιν δὲ πόδες φέρον ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα:
ἦτοι ὅτ' ἰθύσειεν, ἔρुकέ μιν ἔνδοθεν αἰδώς:
αἰδοῖ δ' ἐργομένην θρασὺς ἱμερος ὀτρύνεσκεν.

τρις μὲν ἐπειρήθη, τρις δ' ἔσχετο, τέτρατον αὖτις
 655 λέκτροισιν πρηνὴς ἐνικάππεσεν εἰλιχθεῖσα.
 ὥς δ' ὅτε τις νύμφη θαλερὸν πόσιν ἐν θαλάμοισιν
 μύρεται, ᾧ μιν ὅπασσαν ἀδελφεοὶ ἡδὲ τοκῆς,
 οὐδὲ τί πω πάσαις ἐπιμίσγεται ἀμφιπόλοισιν
 αἰδοὶ ἐπιφροσύνη τε: μυχῶ δ' ἀχέουσα θαάσσει:
 660 τὸν δέ τις ὤλεσε μοῖρα, πάρος ταρπήμεναι ἄμφω
 δήνεσιν ἀλλήλων: ἡ δ' ἔνδοθι δαιομένη περ
 σῖγα μάλα κλαίει χῆρον λέχος εἰσορόωσα,
 μὴ μιν κερτομέουσai ἐπιστοβέωσι γυναῖκες:
 τῇ ἱκέλη Μῆδεια κινύρετο. τὴν δέ τις ἄφνω
 665 μυρομένην μεσσηγὺς ἐπιπρομολοῦσ' ἐνόησεν
 δμῳάων, ἣ οἱ ἐπέτις πέλε κουρίζουσα:
 Χαλκιοῖπῃ δ' ἡγγεῖλε παρασχεδόν: ἡ δ' ἐνὶ παισὶν
 ἦστ' ἐπιμητιόωσα κασιγνήτην ἀρέσασθαι.
 ἀλλ' οὐδ' ὥς ἀπίθησεν, ὅτ' ἔκλυεν ἀμφιπόλοιο
 670 μῦθον ἀνώιστον: διὰ δ' ἔσσυτο θαμβήσασα
 ἐκ θαλάμου θάλαμόνδε διαμπερές, ᾧ ἔνι κούρη
 κέκλιτ' ἀκηχεμένη, δρύψεν δ' ἐκάτερθε παρειάς:
 ὥς δ' ἶδε δάκρυσιν ὅσσε πεφυρμένα, φώνησέν μιν:
 “ὦ μοι ἐγὼ, Μῆδεια, τί δὴ τάδε δάκρυα λείβεις;
 675 τίπτ' ἔπαθες; τί τοι αἶνὸν ὑπὸ φρένας ἔκετο πένθος;
 ἦ νύ σε θευμορίη περιδέδρομεν ἄψα νοῦσος,
 ἦ ἔτιν' οὐλομένην ἐδάης ἐκ πατρὸς ἐνιπὴν
 ἀμφὶ τ' ἐμοὶ καὶ παισίν; ὄφελλέ με μήτε τοκῆων
 δῶμα τόδ' εἰσοράαν, μηδὲ πτόλιν, ἀλλ' ἐπὶ γαίης
 680 πείρασι ναιετάειν, ἵνα μηδὲ περ οὔνομα Κόλχων.”

[645] She spake, and rising from her bed opened the door of her chamber, bare-footed, clad in one robe; and verily she desired to go to her sister, and crossed the threshold. And for long she stayed there at the entrance of her chamber, held back by shame; and she turned back once more; and again she came forth from within, and again stole back; and idly did her feet bear her this way and that; yea, as oft as she went straight on, shame held her within the chamber, and though held back by shame, bold desire kept urging her on. Thrice she made the attempt and thrice she checked herself, the fourth time she fell on her bed face downward, writhing in pain. And as when a bride in her chamber bewails her youthful husband, to whom her brothers and parents have given her, nor yet does she hold converse with all her attendants for shame and for thinking of him; but she sits apart in her grief; and some doom has destroyed him, before they have had pleasure of each other's charms; and she with heart on fire silently weeps, beholding her widowed couch, in fear lest the women should mock and revile her; like to her did Medea lament. And suddenly as she was in the midst of her tears, one of the handmaids came forth and noticed her, one who was her youthful attendant; and straightway she told Chalciope,

who sat in the midst of her sons devising how to win over her sister. And when Chalciope heard the strange tale from the handmaid, not even so did she disregard it. And she rushed in dismay from her chamber right on to the chamber where the maiden lay in her anguish, having torn her cheeks on each side; and when Chalciope saw her eyes all dimmed with tears, she thus addressed her: “Ah me, Medea, why dost thou weep so? What hath befallen thee? What terrible grief has entered thy heart? Has some heaven-sent disease enwrap thy frame, or hast thou heard from our father some deadly threat concerning me and my sons? Would that I did not behold this home of my parents, or the city, but dwelt at the ends of the earth, where not even the name of Colchians is known!”

ὥς φάτο: τῆς δ' ἐρύθηγε παρήια: δὴν δέ μιν αἰδῶς
παρθενίη κατέρυκεν ἀμείψασθαι μεμαυῖαν.
μῦθος δ' ἄλλοτε μὲν οἱ ἐπ' ἀκροτάτης ἀνέτελλεν
γλώσσης, ἄλλοτ' ἔνερθε κατὰ στήθος πεπότιτο.
685 πολλάκι δ' ἱμερόεν μὲν ἀνὰ στόμα θυῖεν ἐνισπεῖν:
φθογγῇ δ' οὐ προύβαινε παροιτέρω: ὁψὲ δ' ἔειπεν
τοῖα δόλω: θρασέες γὰρ ἐπεκλονέεσκον Ἑρωτες:
Ἑχλκίῳπῃ, περὶ μοι παῖδων σέο θυμὸς ἄηται,
μὴ σφε πατὴρ ξείνοισι σὺν ἀνδράσιν αὐτίκ' ὀλέσση.
690 τοῖα κατακνώσσουσα μινυνθαδίῳ νέον ὕπνω
λεύσσω ὀνείρατα λυγρά, τά τις θεὸς ἀκράαντα
θείη, μῆδ' ἀλεγεινὸν ἐφ' υἷαςι κῆδος ἔλοιο.'

[681] Thus she spake, and her sister's cheeks flushed; and though she was eager to reply, long did maiden shame restrain her. At one moment the word rose on the end of her tongue, at another it fluttered back deep within her breast. And often through her lovely lips it strove for utterance; but no sound came forth; till at last she spoke with guileful words; for the bold Loves were pressing her hard: “Chalciope, my heart is all trembling for thy sons, lest my father forthwith destroy them together with the strangers. Slumbering just now in a short-lived sleep such a ghastly dream did I see — may some god forbid its fulfilment and never mayst thou win for thyself bitter care on thy sons' account.”

φῆ ῥα, κασιγνήτης πειρωμένη, εἴ κέ μιν αὐτὴ
ἀντιάσειε πάροιθεν ἐοῖς τεκέεσσιν ἀμύνειν.
695 τὴν δ' αἰνῶς ἄτλητος ἐπέκλυσε θυμὸν ἀνὴρ
δείματι, τοῖ' ἐσάκουσεν: ἀμείβετο δ' ὦδ' ἐπέεσσιν:
ἑκαὶ δ' αὐτὴ τάδε πάντα μετήλυθον ὀρμαίνουσα,
εἴ τινα συμφράσσαιο καὶ ἀρτύνειας ἀρωγὴν.
ἀλλ' ὁμοσον Γαῖαν τε καὶ Οὐρανόν, ὅττι τοι εἶπω
700 σχήσειν ἐν θυμῷ, σὺν τε δρῆσταιρα πέλεσθαι.
λίσσομ' ὑπὲρ μακάρων σέο τ' αὐτῆς ἡδὲ τοκῆων,

μή σφε κακῇ ὑπὸ κηρὶ διαρραισθέντας ἰδέσθαι
λευγαλέως· ἢ σοίγε φίλοις σὺν παισὶ θανοῦσα
εἶην ἐξ Αἰδέω στυγερῇ μετόπισθεν Ἑρινύς·

[693] She spake, making trial of her sister to see if she first would entreat help for her sons. And utterly unbearable grief surged over Chalciope's soul for fear at what she heard; and then she replied: "Yea, I myself too have come to thee in eager furtherance of this purpose, if thou wouldst haply devise with me and prepare some help. But swear by Earth and Heaven that thou wilt keep secret in thy heart what I shall tell thee, and be fellow-worker with me. I implore thee by the blessed gods, by thyself and by thy parents, not to see them destroyed by an evil doom piteously; or else may I die with my dear sons and come back hereafter from Hades an avenging Fury to haunt thee."

705 ὧς ἄρ' ἔφη, τὸ δὲ πολλὸν ὑπεξέχυτ' αὐτίκα δάκρυ:

νειόθι θ' ἀμφοτέρησι περισχετο γούνατα χερσίν,
σὺν δὲ κάρη κόλποις περικάββαλεν. ἔνθ' ἔλειπεν
ἄμφω ἐπ' ἀλλήλησι θέσαν γόον· ὦρτο δ' ἰωὴ
λεπταλὴ διὰ δώματ' ὀδυρομένων ἀχέεσσιν.

710 τὴν δὲ πάρος Μήδεια προσέννεπεν ἀσχαλόωσα:

ἑδαιμονίη, τί νύ τοι ῥέξω ἄκος, οἳ' ἀγορεύεις,
ἄράς τε στυγεράς καὶ Ἑρινύας; αἱ γὰρ ὄφελ' ἔλ-
λειπον εἶναι ἐπ' ἅμμι τεοῦς υἱῆας ἔρυσθαι.

ἴστω Κόλχων ὄρκος ὑπέρβιος ὄντιν' ὁμόσσαι

715 αὐτὴ ἐποτρύνεις, μέγας Οὐρανός, ἣ θ' ὑπένερθεν

γαῖα, θεῶν μήτηρ, ὅσπον σθένος ἐστὶν ἐμεῖο,
μή σ' ἐπιδευήσεσθαι, ἀνυστά περ ἀντιόωσαν·

[705] Thus she spake, and straightway a torrent of tears gushed forth and low down she clasped her sister's knees with both hands and let her head sink on to her breast. Then they both made piteous lamentation over each other, and through the halls rose the faint sound of women weeping in anguish. Medea, sore troubled, first addressed her sister: "God help thee, what healing can I bring thee for what thou speakest of, horrible curses and Furies? Would that it were firmly in my power to save thy sons! Be witness that mighty oath of the Colchians by which thou urgest me to swear, the great Heaven, and Earth beneath, mother of the gods, that as far as strength lies in me, never shalt thou fail of help, if only thy prayers can be accomplished."

φῆ ἄρα: Χαλκιόπη δ' ἡμείβετο τοῖσδ' ἐπέεσσιν:

οὐκ ἂν δὴ ξείνῳ τλαίης χατέοντι καὶ αὐτῷ

720 ἢ δόλον, ἢ τινα μῆτιν ἐπιφράσσασθαι ἀέθλου,

παίδων εἵνεκ' ἐμεῖο; καὶ ἐκ κείνοιο δ' ἰκάνει

Ἄργος, ἐποτρύνων με τεῆς πειρῆσαι ἀρωγῆς:

μεσσηγὺς μὲν τόνγε δόμῳ λίπον ἐνθάδ' ἰοῦσα·

[718] She spake, and Chalciope thus replied: “Couldst thou not then, for the stranger — who himself craves thy aid — devise some trick or some wise thought to win the contest, for the sake of my sons? And from him has come Argus urging me to try to win thy help; I left him in the palace meantime while I came hither.”

ὥς φάτο: τῇ δ' ἔντοσθεν ἀνέπτατο χάρματι θυμός,
725 φοινίχθη δ' ἄμυδις καλὸν χρῶα, καὶ δέ μιν ἀχλὺς
εἶλεν ἱαινομένην, τοῖον δ' ἐπὶ μῦθον ἔειπεν:
‘Χαλκίοπη, ὥς ὕμμι φίλον τερπνόν τε τέτυκται,
ὥς ἔρξω. μὴ γάρ μοι ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖσι φαεῖνοι
ἦώς, μηδέ με δηρὸν ἔτι ζώουσαν ἴδοιο,
730 εἴ γέ τι σῆς ψυχῆς προφερέστερον, ἢέ τι παίδων
σῶν θείην, οἳ δὴ μοι ἀδελφείοι γεγάασιν,
κηδεμόνες τε φίλοι καὶ ὁμήλικες. ὥς δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ
φημὶ κασιγνήτη τε σέθεν κούρη τε πέλεσθαι,
ἶσον ἐπεὶ κείνοις με τεῶ ἑπαίραιο μαζῶ
735 νηπυτίην, ὥς αἰὲν ἐγὼ ποτε μητρὸς ἄκουον.
ἀλλ' ἴθι, κεῦθε δ' ἐμὴν σιγῇ χάριν, ὄφρα τοκῆας
λήσομαι ἐντύνουσα ὑπόσχεσιν: ἦρι δὲ νηὸν
οἴσομαι εἰς Ἑκάτης θελκτήρια φάρμακα ταύρων.’

[724] Thus she spake, and Medea's heart bounded with joy within her, and at once her fair cheeks flushed, and a mist swam before her melting eyes, and she spake as follows: “Chalciope, as is dear and delightful to thee and thy sons, even so will I do. Never may the dawn appear again to my eyes, never mayst thou see me living any longer, if I should take thought for anything before thy life or thy sons' lives, for they are my brothers, my dear kinsmen and youthful companions. So do I declare myself to be thy sister, and thy daughter too, for thou didst lift me to thy breast when an infant equally with them, as I ever heard from my mother in past days. But go, bury my kindness in silence, so that I may carry out my promise unknown to my parents; and at dawn I will bring to Hecate's temple charms to cast a spell upon the bulls.”

740 ὥς ἦγ' ἐκ θαλάμοιο πάλιν κίε, παισὶ τ' ἀρωγὴν
αὐτοκασιγνήτης διεπέφραδε. τὴν δέ μιν αὔτις
αἰδῶς τε στυγερὸν τε δέος λάβε μουνωθεῖσας,
τοῖα παρὲς οὐ πατρὸς ἐπ' ἀνέρι μητιάσθαι.

[740] Thus Chalciope went back from the chamber, and made known to her sons the help given by her sister. And again did shame and hateful fear seize Medea thus left alone, that she should devise such deeds for a man in her father's despite.

νῦξ μὲν ἔπειτ' ἐπὶ γαῖαν ἄγεν κνέφας: οἳ δ' ἐνὶ πόντῳ
745 ναῦται εἰς Ἑλίκην τε καὶ Ἀστέρας Ὠρίωνος

ἔδρακον ἐκ νηῶν· ὕπνοιο δὲ καὶ τις ὁδίτης
 ἤδη καὶ πυλαῶρος ἐέλδετο· καὶ τινα παίδων
 μητέρα τεθνεώτων ἀδινὸν περὶ κῶμ' ἐκάλυπτεν·
 οὐδὲ κυνῶν ὕλακῃ ἔτ' ἀνὰ πτόλιν, οὐ θρόος ἦεν
 750 ἡχήεις· σιγῇ δὲ μελαινομένην ἔχεν ὄρφνην.
 ἀλλὰ μάλ' οὐ Μήδειαν ἐπὶ γλυκερὸς λάβεν ὕπνος.
 πολλὰ γὰρ Αἰσονίδαο πόθω μελεδήματ' ἔγειρεν
 δειδυῖαν ταύρων κρατερὸν μένος, οἷσιν ἔμελλεν
 φθίσθαι ἀεικελίῃ μοίρῃ κατὰ νειὸν Ἄρης.
 755 πυκνὰ δέ οἱ κραδίῃ στηθέων ἔντοσθεν ἔθυιεν,
 ἡελίου ὥς τίς τε δόμοις ἐνιπάλλεται αἴγλη
 ὕδατος ἐξανιοῦσα, τὸ δὲ νέον ἡὲ λέβητι
 ἡέ που ἐν γαυλῷ κέχυται· ἡ δ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα
 ὠκείῃ στροφάλιγγι τινάσσεται αἰσσοῦσα·
 760 ὥς δὲ καὶ ἐν στήθεσσι κέαρ ἐλελίζετο κούρης.
 δάκρυ δ' ἀπ' ὀφθαλμῶν ἐλέω ῥέεν· ἔνδοθι δ' αἰεὶ
 τεῖρ' ὀδύνη σμύχουσα διὰ χροός, ἀμφὶ τ' ἀραιὰς
 ἵνας καὶ κεφαλῆς ὑπὸ νείατον ἰνίον ἄχρις,
 ἔνθ' ἀλεγεινότατον δύνει ἄχος, ὅππότε' ἀνίας
 765 ἀκάματοι πραπίδεςσιν ἐνισκίψωσιν Ἑρώτες.
 φῆ δέ οἱ ἄλλοτε μὲν θελκτήρια φάρμακα ταύρων
 δωσέμεν, ἄλλοτε δ' οὔτι· καταφθίσθαι δὲ καὶ αὐτῇ·
 αὐτίκα δ' οὔτ' αὐτὴ θανέειν, οὐ φάρμακα δώσειν,
 ἀλλ' αὐτῶς εὐκηλος ἔην ὀτλησέμεν ἄτην.
 770 ἐξομένη δῆπεια δοῦσσατο, φώνησέν τε·

[744] Then did night draw darkness over the earth; and on the sea sailors from their ships looked towards the Bear and the stars of Orion; and now the wayfarer and the warder longed for sleep, and the pall of slumber wrapped round the mother whose children were dead; nor was there any more the barking of dogs through the city, nor sound of men's voices; but silence held the blackening gloom. But not indeed upon Medea came sweet sleep. For in her love for Aeson's son many cares kept her wakeful, and she dreaded the mighty strength of the bulls, beneath whose fury he was like to perish by an unseemly fate in the field of Ares. And fast did her heart throb within her breast, as a sunbeam quivers upon the walls of a house when flung up from water, which is just poured forth in a caldron or a pail may be; and hither and thither on the swift eddy does it dart and dance along; even so the maiden's heart quivered in her breast. And the tear of pity flowed from her eyes, and ever within anguish tortured her, a smouldering fire through her frame, and about her fine nerves and deep down beneath the nape of the neck where the pain enters keenest, whenever the unwearied Loves direct against the heart their shafts of agony. And she thought now that she would give him the charms to cast a spell on the bulls, now that she would not, and that she herself would perish; and again that she would not perish and would not give

the charms, but just as she was would endure her fate in silence.

‘δειλὴ ἐγὼ, νῦν ἔνθα κακῶν ἢ ἔνθα γένωμαι;
πάντῃ μοι φρένες εἰσὶν ἀμήχανοι· οὐδέ τις ἀλκή
πήματος· ἀλλ’ αὐτῶς φλέγει ἔμπεδον· ὥς ὄφελόν γε
Ἀρτέμιδος κραιπνοῖσι πάρος βελέεσσι δαμῆναι,
⁷⁷⁵ πρὶν τόνγ’ εἰσιδέειν, πρὶν Ἀχαιίδα γαῖαν ἰκέσθαι
Χαλκίωπης υἱας· τοὺς μὲν θεὸς ἢ τις Ἑρινὺς
ἄμμι πολυκλαυτοὺς δεῦρ’ ἤγαγε κείμεν ἀνίας.
φθίσθω ἀεθλεύων, εἴ οἱ κατὰ νειὸν ὀλέσθαι
μοῖρα πέλει· πῶς γάρ κεν ἐμοὺς λελάθοιμι τοκῆας
⁷⁸⁰ φάρμακα μησαμένη; ποῖον δ’ ἐπὶ μῦθον ἐνίψω;
τίς δὲ δόλος, τίς μῆτις ἐπὶ κλοπος ἔσσειτ’ ἀρωγῆς;
ἢ μιν ἄνευθ’ ἐτάρων προσπτύξομαι οἶον ἰδοῦσα;
δύσμορος· οὐ μὲν ἔολπα καταφθιμένονιό περ ἔμης
λωφῆσιν ἀχέων· τότε δ’ ἂν κακὸν ἄμμι πέλοιτο,
⁷⁸⁵ κείνος ὅτε ζωῆς ἀπαμείρεται· ἐρρέτω αἰδῶς,
ἐρρέτω ἀγλαΐῃ· ὁ δ’ ἐμῇ ἰότητι σωθεῖς
ἀσκηθῆς, ἵνα οἱ θυμῷ φίλον, ἔνθα νέοιτο.
αὐτὰρ ἐγὼν αὐτῆμαρ, ὅτ’ ἐξανύσειεν ἄεθλον,
τεθναῖν, ἢ λαιμὸν ἀναρτήσασα μελάθρῳ,
⁷⁹⁰ ἢ καὶ πασσαμένη ραιστήρια φάρμακα θυμοῦ.
ἀλλὰ καὶ ὧς φθιμένη μοι ἐπιλλίξουσιν ὀπίσσω
κερτομίας· τηλοῦ δὲ πόλις περὶ πᾶσα βοήσῃ
πότμον ἐμόν· καὶ κέν με διὰ στόματος φορέουσιν
Κολχίδες ἄλλυδις ἄλλαι ἀεικέα μομήσονται·
⁷⁹⁵ ἥ τις κηδομένη τόσον ἀνέρος ἄλλοδαποῖο
κάτθανεν, ἥ τις δῶμα καὶ οὖς ἥσχυνε τοκῆας,
μαργοσύνη εἷξασα· τί δ’ οὐκ ἐμὸν ἔσσεται αἷσχος;
ὦ μοι ἐμῆς ἄτης· ἢ τ’ ἂν πολὺ κέρδιον εἴη
τῇδ’ αὐτῇ ἐν νυκτὶ λιπεῖν βίον ἐν θαλάμοισιν
⁸⁰⁰ πότμῳ ἀνώιστῳ, κάκ’ ἐλέγχεα πάντα φυγοῦσαν,
πρὶν τάδε λωβήεντα καὶ οὐκ ὀνομαστὰ τελέσσαι.’

[771] Then sitting down she wavered in mind and said: “Poor wretch, must I toss hither and thither in woe? On every side my heart is in despair; nor is there any help for my pain; but it burneth ever thus. Would that I had been slain by the swift shafts of Artemis before I had set eyes on him, before Chalciope’s sons reached the Achaean land. Some god or some Fury brought them hither for our grief, a cause of many tears. Let him perish in the contest if it be his lot to die in the field. For how could I prepare the charms without my parents’ knowledge? What story call I tell them? What trick, what cunning device for aid can I find? If I see him alone, apart from his comrades, shall I greet him? Ill-starred that I am! I cannot hope that I should rest from my sorrows even though he perished; then will evil come to me when he is bereft

of life. Perish all shame, perish all glow; may he, saved by my effort, go scatheless wherever his heart desires. But as for me, on the day when he bides the contest in triumph, may I die either straining my neck in the noose from the roof-tree or tasting drugs destructive of life. But even so, when I am dead, they will fling out taunts against me; and every city far away will ring with my doom, and the Colchian women, tossing my name on their lips hither and thither, will revile me with unseemly mocking — the maid who cared so much for a stranger that she died, the maid who disgraced her home and her parents, yielding to a mad passion. And what disgrace will not be mine? Alas for my infatuation! Far better would it be for me to forsake life this very night in my chamber by some mysterious fate, escaping all slanderous reproach, before I complete such nameless dishonour.”

ἦ, καὶ φωριαμὸν μετεκίαθεν, ἥ ἔνι πολλὰ
 φάρμακά οἱ, τὰ μὲν ἐσθλά, τὰ δὲ ραιστήρι', ἔκειτο.
 ἐνθεμένη δ' ἐπὶ γούνατ' ὀδύρετο. δεῦε δὲ κόλπους
 805 ἄλληκτον δακρύοισι, τὰ δ' ἔρρεεν ἀσταγὲς αὐτῶς,
 αἶν' ὀλοφυρομένης τὸν ἐὼν μόρον. ἴeto δ' ἤγε
 φάρμακα λέξασθαι θυμοφθόρα, τόφρα πάσαιτο.
 ἤδη καὶ δεσμοὺς ἀνελύετο φωριαμοῖο,
 ἐξελέειν μεμαῦτα, δυσάμμορος. ἀλλὰ οἱ ἄφνω
 810 δεῖμ' ὀλοὸν στυγεροῖο κατὰ φρένας ἦλθ' Αἴδαο.
 ἔσχετο δ' ἀμφασίῃ δηρὸν χρόνον, ἀμφὶ δὲ πᾶσαι
 θυμηδεῖς βίότιοι μεληδόνες ἰνδάλλοντο.
 μνήσατο μὲν τερπνῶν, ὅς' ἐνὶ ζωῷσι πέλονται,
 μνήσασθ' ὀμηλικίης περιγηθείος, οἷά τε κούρη:
 815 καὶ τέ οἱ ἠέλιος γλυκίων γένετ' εἰσοράασθαι,
 ἥ πάρος, εἰ ἐτεόν γε νόῳ ἐπεμαίεθ' ἕκαστα.
 καὶ τὴν μὲν ῥα πάλιν σφετέρων ἀποκάτθετο γούνων,
 Ἥρης ἐννεσίησι μετὰτροπος, οὐδ' ἔτι βουλὰς
 ἄλλη δοιάζεσκεν: ἐέλδετο δ' αἶψα φανῆναι
 820 ἡῶ τελλομένην, ἵνα οἱ θελκτήρια δοίῃ
 φάρμακα συνθεσίησι, καὶ ἀντήσειεν ἐς ὥπῃν.
 πυκνὰ δ' ἀνὰ κληῖδας ἑῶν λύεσκε θυράων,
 αἵγλην σκεπτομένη: τῇ δ' ἀσπασίον βάλε φέγγος
 Ἥριγενῆς, κίνυντο δ' ἀνὰ πτολίεθρον ἕκαστοι.

[802] She spake, and brought a casket wherein lay many drugs, some for healing, others for killing, and placing it upon her knees she wept. And she drenched her bosom with ceaseless tears, which flowed in torrents as she sat, bitterly bewailing her own fate. And she longed to choose a murderous drug to taste it, and now she was loosening the bands of the casket eager to take it forth, unhappy maid! But suddenly a deadly fear of hateful Hades came upon her heart. And long she held back in speechless horror, and all around her thronged visions of the pleasing cares of life. She thought of all the delightful

things that are among the living, she thought of her joyous playmates, as a maiden will; and the sun grew sweeter than ever to behold, seeing that in truth her soul yearned for all. And she put the casket again from off her knees, all changed by the prompting of Hera, and no more did she waver in purpose; but longed for the rising dawn to appear quickly, that she might give him the charms to work the spell as she had promised, and meet him face to face. And often did she loosen the bolts of her door, to watch for the faint gleam: and welcome to her did the dayspring shed its light, and folk began to stir throughout the city.

825 ἔνθα κασιγνήτους μὲν ἔτ' αὐτόθι μέναι ἀνώγει
Ἄργος, ἵνα φράζοιντο νόον καὶ μήδεα κούρης·
αὐτὸς δ' αὖτ' ἐπὶ νῆα κίεν προπάροιθε λιασθείς.

[825] Then Argus bade his brothers remain there to learn the maiden's mind and plans, but himself turned back and went to the ship.

ἦ δ' ἐπεὶ οὖν τὰ πρῶτα φαεινομένην ἶδεν ἡῶ
παρθενική, ξανθὰς μὲν ἀνήψατο χερσὶν ἐθείρας,
830 αἱ οἱ ἀτημελίη καταειμέναι ἠερέθοντο,
αὐσταλέας δ' ἔψησε παρηίδας· αὐτὰρ ἄλοιφι
νεκταρέη φαιδρύνετ' ἐπὶ χροά· δῶνε δὲ πέπλον
καλόν, ἐυγνάμπτοισιν ἀρηρέμενον περόνησιν·
ἀμβροσίῳ δ' ἐφύπερθε καρῆατι βάλλε καλύπτρην
835 ἀργυρέην. αὐτοῦ δὲ δόμοις ἔνι δινεύουσα
στεῖβε πέδον λήθη ἀχέων, τά οἱ ἐν ποσὶν ἦεν
θεσπέσι, ἄλλα τ' ἔμελλεν ἀεξήσεσθαι ὀπίσσω.
κέκλετο δ' ἀμφιπόλοισι, αἱ οἱ δυοκαίδεκα πᾶσαι
ἐν προδόμῳ θαλάμοιο θυώδεος ἠυλίζοντο
840 ἥλικες, οὐπω λέκτρα σὺν ἀνδράσι πορσύνουσαι,
ἐσσυμένως οὐρῆας ὑποζεύξασθαι ἀπήνη,
οἳ κέ μιν εἰς Ἑκάτης περικαλλέα νηὸν ἄγοιεν.
ἐνθ' αὖτ' ἀμφίπολοι μὲν ἐφοπλίζεσκον ἀπήνην·
ἦ δὲ τέως γλαφυρῆς ἐξείλετο φωριαμοῖο
845 φάρμακον, ὃ ρά τέ φασι Προμήθειον καλέεσθαι.
τῷ εἰ κ' ἐννυχίοισιν ἀρεσσάμενος θυέεσσιν
κούρην μουνογένειαν ἐὼν δέμας ἱκμαίνοντο,
ἦ τ' ἂν ὄγ' οὔτε ῥηκτὸς ἔοι χαλκοῖο τυπῆσιν,
οὔτε κεν αἰθομένῳ πυρὶ εἰκάθοι· ἀλλὰ καὶ ἀλκῇ
850 λωίτερος κεῖν' ἦμαρ ὁμῶς κάρτει τε πέλοιτο.
πρωτοφυὲς τόγ' ἀνέσχε καταστάξαντος ἔραζε
αἰετοῦ ὠμηστέῳ κνημοῖς ἐνὶ Καυκασίοισιν
αἵματόεντ' ἰχῶρα Προμηθῆος μογεροῖο.
τοῦ δ' ἦτοι ἄνθος μὲν ὅσον πήχυιον ὑπερθεν
855 χροῖῃ Κωρυκίῳ ἵκελον κρόκῳ ἐξεφάνθη,

καυλοῖσιν διδύμοισιν ἐπήγορον· ἡ δ' ἐνὶ γαίῃ
 σαρκὶ νεοτμήτῳ ἐναλιγκίῃ ἔπλετο ῥίζα.
 τῆς οἴην τ' ἐν ὄρεσσι κελαϊνὴν ἱκμάδα φηγοῦ
 Κασπίῃ ἐν κόχλῳ ἀμήσατο φαρμάσσεσθαι,
 860 ἐπτα μὲν ἀνάνοισι λοεσσαμένη ὑδάτεσσιν,
 ἐπτὰκι δὲ Βριμῷ κουροτρόφον ἀγκαλέσασα,
 Βριμῷ νυκτιπόλον, χθονίην, ἐνέροισιν ἄνασσαν,
 λυγαίῃ ἐνὶ νυκτί, σὺν ὀρφναίοις φαρέεσσιν.
 μυκηθμῷ δ' ὑπένερθεν ἐρεμνὴ σείετο γαῖα,
 865 ῥίζης τεμονομένης Τιτηνίδος· ἔστενε δ' αὐτὸς
 Ἰαπετοῖο πάις ὀδύνῃ πέρι θυμὸν ἀλύων.
 τό ρ' ἦγ' ἐξανελούσα θυώδει κάτθετο μίτρῃ,
 ἢ τέ οἱ ἀμβροσίοισι περὶ στήθεσσιν ἔερτο.
 ἐκ δὲ θύραζε κιούσα θοῆς ἐπεβήσατ' ἀπήνης·
 870 σὺν δὲ οἱ ἀμφίπολοι δοιαὶ ἐκάτερθεν ἔβησαν.
 αὐτὴ δ' ἡνί' ἔδεκτο καὶ εὐποίητον ἱμάσθλην
 δεξιτερῇ, ἔλαεν δὲ δι' ἄστεος· αἱ δὲ δὴ ἄλλαι
 ἀμφίπολοι, πείρινθος ἐφαπτόμεναι μετόπισθεν,
 τρώχων εὐρεῖαν κατ' ἀμαξιτόν· ἂν δὲ χιτῶνας
 875 λεπταλέους λευκῆς ἐπιγουνίδος ἄχρις ἄειρον.
 οἷα δὲ λιαροῖσιν ἐφ' ὕδασι Παρθενίῳ,
 ἦε καὶ Ἀμνισοῖο λοεσσαμένη ποταμοῖο
 χρυσείοις Λητωῖς ἐφ' ἄρμασιν ἐστηνῖα
 ὠκείαις κεμάδεσσι διεξέλασσησι κολῶνας,
 880 τηλόθεν ἀντιώσα πολυκνίσου ἐκατόμβης·
 τῇ δ' ἅμα νύμφαι ἔπονται ἀμορβάδες, αἱ μὲν ἐπ' αὐτῆς
 ἀγρόμεναι πηγῆς Ἀμνισίδος, ἂν δὲ δὴ ἄλλαι
 ἄλσεα καὶ σκοπιάς πολυπίδακας· ἀμφὶ δὲ θῆρες
 κνυζηθμῷ σαίνουσιν ὑποτρομέοντες ἰοῦσαν·
 885 ὥς αἶγ' ἐσσεύοντο δι' ἄστεος· ἀμφὶ δὲ λαοὶ
 εἶκον, ἀλευάμενοι βασιληίδος ὄμματα κούρης.

[828] Now soon as ever the maiden saw the light of dawn, with her hands she gathered up her golden tresses which were floating round her shoulders in careless disarray, and bathed her tear-stained cheeks, and made her skin shine with ointment sweet as nectar; and she donned a beautiful robe, fitted with well-bent clasps, and above on her head, divinely fair, she threw a veil gleaming like silver. And there, moving to and fro in the palace, she trod the ground forgetful of the heaven-sent woes thronging round her and of others that were destined to follow. And she called to her maids. Twelve they were, who lay during the night in the vestibule of her fragrant chamber, young as herself, not yet sharing the bridal couch, and she bade them hastily yoke the mules to the chariot to bear her to the beauteous shrine of Hecate. Thereupon the handmaids were making ready the chariot; and Medea meanwhile took from the hollow casket a charm which men say is called the charm of

Prometheus. If a man should anoint his body therewithal, having first appeased the Maiden, the only-begotten, with sacrifice by night, surely that man could not be wounded by the stroke of bronze nor would he flinch from blazing fire; but for that day he would prove superior both in prowess and in might. It shot up first-born when the ravening eagle on the rugged flanks of Caucasus let drip to the earth the blood-like ichor of tortured Prometheus. And its flower appeared a cubit above ground in colour like the Corycian crocus, rising on twin stalks; but in the earth the root was like newly-cut flesh. The dark juice of it, like the sap of a mountain-oak, she had gathered in a Caspian shell to make the charm withal, when she had first bathed in seven ever-flowing streams, and had called seven times on Brimo, nurse of youth, night-wandering Brimo, of the underworld, queen among the dead, — in the gloom of night, clad in dusky garments. And beneath, the dark earth shook and bellowed when the Titanian root was cut; and the son of Iapetus himself groaned, his soul distraught with pain. And she brought the charm forth and placed it in the fragrant band which engirdled her, just beneath her bosom, divinely fair. And going forth she mounted the swift chariot, and with her went two handmaidens on each side. And she herself took the reins and in her right hand the well-fashioned whip, and drove through the city; and the rest, the handmaids, laid their hands on the chariot behind and ran along the broad highway; and they kilted up their light robes above their white knees. And even as by the mild waters of Parthenius, or after bathing in the river Amnisus, Leto's daughter stands upon her golden chariot and courses over the hills with her swift-footed roes, to greet from afar some richly-steaming hecatomb; and with her come the nymphs in attendance, gathering, some at the spring of Amnisus itself, others by the glens and many-fountained peaks; and round her whine and fawn the beasts cowering as she moves along: thus they sped through the city; and on both sides the people gave way, shunning the eyes of the royal maiden.

αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ πόλιος μὲν εὐδμήτους λίπ' ἀγυιάς,
νηὸν δ' εἰσαφίκανε διὲκ πεδίων ἐλάουσα,
δὴ τότε ἔντροχάλοιο κατ' αὐτόθι βήσατ' ἀπήνης
890 ἰεμένη, καὶ τοῖα μετὰ δμῶϊσιν ἔειπεν:
‘ὦ φίλοι, ἦ μέγα δὴ τι παρήλιτον, οὐδ' ἐνόησα
μὴ ἵμεν ἀλλοδαποῖσι μετ' ἀνδράσιν, οἳ τ' ἐπὶ γαῖαν
ἡμετέρεην στρωφῶσιν. ἀμηχανίη βεβόληται
πᾶσα πόλις: τὸ καὶ οὐτις ἀνήλυθε δεῦρο γυναικῶν
895 τάων, αἱ τὸ πάροιθεν ἐπημάται ἀγέρονται.
ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ οὖν ἰκόμεσθα, καὶ οὐ νύ τις ἄλλος ἔπεισιν,
εἰ δ' ἄγε μολπῇ θυμὸν ἀφειδείως κορέσωμεν
μειλιχίη, τὰ δὲ καλὰ τερείνης ἄνθεα ποίησ
λεξάμεναι τότε ἔπειτ' αὐτὴν ἀπονισσόμεθ' ὥρην.
900 καὶ δέ κε σὺν πολέεσσιν ὀνείασιν οἴκαδ' ἴκοισθε
ἥματι τῷ, εἴ μοι συναρέσσετε τήνδε μενοιγνήν.

Ἄργος γάρ μ' ἐπέεσσι παρατρέπει, ὥς δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ
 Χαλκιοπή: τὰ δὲ σῖγα νόφ' ἔχετ' εἰσαΐουσαι
 ἐξ ἐμέθεν, μὴ πατρὸς ἐς οὔατα μῦθος ἵκηται.
 905 τὸν ξεῖνόν με κέλονται, ὅτις περὶ βουσὶν ὑπέστη,
 δῶρ' ἀποδεξαμένην ὁλοῶν ρύσασθαι ἀέθλων.
 αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ τὸν μῦθον ἐπήνεον, ἥδὲ καὶ αὐτὸν
 κέκλωμαι εἰς ὦπὴν ἐτάρων ἄπο μοῦνον ἰκέσθαι,
 ὄφρα τὰ μὲν δασόμεσθα μετὰ σφίσιν, εἴ κεν ὀπάσση
 910 δῶρα φέρων, τῷ δ' αὖτε κακώτερον ἄλλο πόρωμεν
 φάρμακον. ἄλλ' ἀπονόσφι πέλεσθέ μοι, εὖτ' ἂν ἵκηται.'

[888] But when she had left the city's well paved streets, and was approaching the shrine as she drove over the plains, then she alighted eagerly from the smooth- running chariot and spake as follows among her maidens: "Friends, verily have I sinned greatly and took no heed not to go among the stranger-folk I who roam over our land. The whole city is smitten with dismay; wherefore no one of the women who formerly gathered here day by day has now come hither. But since we have come and no one else draws near, come, let us satisfy our souls without stint with soothing song, and when we have plucked the fair flowers amid the tender grass, that very hour will we return. And with many a gift shall ye reach home this very day, if ye will gladden me with this desire of mine. For Argus pleads with me, also Chalciope herself; but this that ye hear from me keep silently in your hearts, lest the tale reach my father's ears. As for yon stranger who took on him the task with the oxen, they bid me receive his gifts and rescue him from the deadly contest. And I approved their counsel, and I have summoned him to come to my presence apart from his comrades, so that we may divide the gifts among ourselves if he bring them in his hands, and in return may give him a baleful charm. But when he comes, do ye stand aloof."

ὥς ἡῦδα: πάσῃσι δ' ἐπὶ κλωπος ἦνδανε μῆτις.
 αὐτίκα δ' Αἰσονίδην ἐτάρων ἄπο μοῦνον ἐρύσσας
 Ἄργος, ὅτ' ἤδη τήνδε κασιγνήτων ἐσάκουσεν
 915 ἡερίην Ἑκάτης ἱερὸν μετὰ νηὸν ἰοῦσαν,
 ἦγε διὲκ πεδίου: ἅμα δὲ σφίσιν εἶπετο Μόψος
 Ἀμπυκίδης, ἐσθλὸς μὲν ἐπιπροφανέντας ἐνίσπεῖν
 οἰωνούς, ἐσθλὸς δὲ σὺν εὖ φράσσεσθαι ἰοῦσιν.

[912] So she spake, and the crafty counsel pleased them all. And straightway Argus drew Aeson's son apart from his comrades as soon as he heard from his brothers that Medea had gone at daybreak to the holy shrine of Hecate, and led him over the plain; and with them went Mopsus, son of Ampycus, skilled to utter oracles from the appearance of birds, and skilled to give good counsel to those who set out on a journey.

ἐνθ' οὐπω τις τοῖος ἐπὶ προτέρων γένητ' ἀνδρῶν,

920 οὐθ' ὅσοι ἐξ αὐτοῦ Διὸς γένος, οὐθ' ὅσοι ἄλλων
ἀθανάτων ἦρωες ἀφ' αἵματος ἐβλάστησαν,
οἷον Ἴησωνα θῆκε Διὸς δάμαρ ἥματι κείνῳ
ἤμὲν ἐσάντα ἰδεῖν, ἥδὲ προτιμυθῆσασθαι.
τὸν καὶ παπταίνοντες ἐθάμβεον αὐτοὶ ἐταῖροι
925 λαμπόμενον χαρίτεσσιν· ἐγήθησεν δὲ κελεύθῳ
Ἀμυγκίδης, ἥδη που οἰσσύμενος τὰ ἕκαστα.

[919] Never yet had there been such a man in the days of old, neither of all the heroes of the lineage of Zeus himself, nor of those who sprung from the blood of the other gods, as on that day the bride of Zeus made Jason, both to look upon and to hold converse with. Even his comrades wondered as they gazed upon him, radiant with manifold graces; and the son of Ampycus rejoiced in their journey, already foreboding how all would end.

ἔστι δέ τις πεδίσιον κατὰ στίβον ἐγγύθι νηοῦ
 αἷγειρος φύλλοισιν ἀπειρεσίοις κομώσα,
 τῇ θαμὰ δὴ λακέρυζαι ἐπηυλίζοντο κορῶναι.
 930 τάων τις μεσσηγὺς ἀνὰ πτερὰ κινήσασα
 ὕψου ἐπ' ἀκρεμόνων Ἥρης ἠνίπαπε βουλάς·
 Ἀκλειῆς ὃδε μάντις, ὃς οὐδ' ὅσα παῖδες ἴσασιν
 οἶδε νόω φράσσασθαι, ὁθούνεκεν οὔτε τι λαρὸν
 οὔτ' ἐρατὸν κούρη κεν ἔπος προτιμυθῆσαιτο
 935 ἠιθέω, εὗτ' ἂν σφιν ἐπήλυδες ἄλλοι ἔπωνται.
 ἔρροις, ᾧ κακόμαντι, κακοφραδές· οὔτε σε Κύπρις,
 οὔτ' ἀγανοὶ φιλέοντες ἐπιπνεύουσιν Ἑρωτες·

[927] Now by the path along the plain there stands near the shrine a poplar with its crown of countless leaves, whereon often chattering crows would roost. One of them meantime as she clapped her wings aloft in the branches uttered the counsels of Hera: “What a pitiful seer is this, that has not the wit to conceive even what children know, how that no maiden will say a word of sweetness or love to a youth when strangers be near. Begone, sorry prophet, witless one; on thee neither Cypris nor the gentle Loves breathe in their kindness.”

Ἴσκεν ἀτεμβομένη: μείδισε δὲ Μόψος ἀκούσας
ὁμφὴν οἰωνοῖο θεήλατον, ὧδέ τ' ἔειπεν:
940 'τὴν μὲν νηόνδε θεὰς ἴθι, τῷ ἐνὶ κούρῃν
δήεις, Αἰσονίδη: μάλα δ' ἠπήν ἀντιβολήσεις
Κύπριδος ἐννεσίης, ἥ τοι συνέριθος ἀέθλων
ἔσσεται, ὥς δὴ καὶ πρὶν Ἀγηνορίδης φάτο Φινεύς.
νῶϊ δ', ἐγὼν Ἄργος τε, δεδεγμένοι, εὖτ' ἂν ἴκηαι,
945 τῷδ' αὐτῷ ἐνὶ χώρῳ ἀπεσσόμεθ': οἰόθι δ' αὐτὸς
λίσσεό μιν πυκινοῖσι παρατροπέων ἐπέεσσιν.'

[938] She spake chiding, and Mopsus smiled to hear the god-sent voice of the bird, and thus addressed them: “Do thou, son of Aeson, pass on to the temple, where thou wilt find the maiden; and very kind will her greeting be to thee through the prompting of Cypris, who will be thy helpmate in the contest, even as Phineus, Agenor’s son, foretold. But we two, Argus and I, will await thy return, apart in this very spot; do thou all alone be a suppliant and win her over with prudent words.”

ἦ ῥα περιφραδέως, ἐπὶ δὲ σχεδὸν ἦνεον ἄμφω.
οὐδ’ ἄρα Μηδείης θυμὸς τράπετ’ ἄλλα νοῆσαι,
μελομένης περ ὅμως: πᾶσαι δέ οἱ, ἦντιν’ ἀθύροι
950 μολπὴν, οὐκ ἐπὶ δηρὸν ἐφήνδανεν ἐνψιάσθαι.
ἀλλὰ μεταλλήγεσκεν ἀμήχανος, οὐδέ ποτ’ ὅσσε
ἀμφιπόλων μεθ’ ὄμιλον ἔχ’ ἀτρέμας: ἐς δὲ κελεύθους
τηλόσε παπταίνεσκε, παρακλίνουσα παρειάς.
ἦ θαμὰ δὴ στηθέων ἐάγη κέαρ, ὅπποτε δοῦπον
955 ἦ ποδὸς ἦ ἀνέμοιο παραθρέξαντα δοάσσαι.
αὐτὰρ ὄγ’ οὐ μετὰ δηρὸν ἐλδομένην ἐφάνθη
ὑπόσ’ ἀναθρώσκων ἅ τε Σεῖριος Ὠκεανοῖο,
ὃς δὴ τοι καλὸς μὲν ἀρίζηλός τ’ ἐσιδέσθαι
ἀντέλλει, μήλοισι δ’ ἐν ἄσπετον ἦκεν οἰζύν:
960 ὧς ἄρα τῇ καλὸς μὲν ἐπήλυθεν εἰσοράασθαι
Αἰσονίδης, κάματον δὲ δυσίμερον ὥρσε φανθεῖς.
ἐκ δ’ ἄρα οἱ κραδίη στηθέων πέσεν, ὄμματα δ’ αὐτῶς
ἦγλυσαν: θερμὸν δὲ παρηίδας εἴλεν ἔρευθος.
γούνατα δ’ οὔτ’ ὀπίσω οὔτε προπάροιθεν ἀείραι
965 ἔσθενεν, ἀλλ’ ὑπένερθε πάγῃ πόδας. αἱ δ’ ἄρα τείως
ἀμφίπολοι μάλα πᾶσαι ἀπὸ σφείων ἐλίασθεν.
τῷ δ’ ἄνεψοι καὶ ἄναυδοι ἐφέεσταν ἀλλήλοισιν,
ἦ δρυσὶν, ἦ μακρῇσιν ἐειδόμενοι ἐλάτησιν,
αἷ τε παρᾶσσον ἔκηλοι ἐν οὔρεσιν ἐρρίζωνται,
970 νηνεμίη: μετὰ δ’ αὖτις ὑπὸ ῥιπῆς ἀνέμοιο
κινύμεναι ὁμάδησαν ἀπείριτον: ὧς ἄρα τώγε
μέλλον ἄλις φθέγγασθαι ὑπὸ πνοιῇσιν Ἔρωτος.

[947] He spake wisely, and both at once gave approval. Nor was Medea’s heart turned to other thoughts, for all her singing, and never a song that she essayed pleased her long in her sport. But in confusion she ever faltered, nor did she keep her eyes resting quietly upon the throng of her handmaids; but to the paths far off she strained her gaze, turning her face aside. Oft did her heart sink fainting within her bosom whenever she fancied she heard passing by the sound of a footfall or of the wind. But soon he appeared to her longing eyes, striding along loftily, like Sirius coming from ocean, which rises fair and clear to see, but brings unspeakable mischief to flocks; thus then did Aeson’s son come to her, fair to see, but the sight of him brought love-sick care. Her heart

fell from out her bosom, and a dark mist came over her eyes, and a hot blush covered her cheeks. And she had no strength to lift her knees backwards or forwards, but her feet beneath were rooted to the ground; and meantime all her handmaidens had drawn aside. So they two stood face to face without a word, without a sound, like oaks or lofty pines, which stand quietly side by side on the mountains when the wind is still; then again, when stirred by the breath of the wind, they murmur ceaselessly; so they two were destined to tell out all their tale, stirred by the breath of Love.

γνῶ δέ μιν Αἰσονίδης ἄτη ἐνιπεπτηυῖαν

θευμορίη, καὶ τοῖον ὑποσσαίνων φάτο μῦθον:

975 ‘τίπτε με, παρθενική, τόσον ἄζσαι, οἷον ἐόντα;

οὐ τοι ἐγών, οἷοί τε δυσανχέες ἄλλοι ἔασιν

ἄνδρες, οὐδ’ ὅτε περ πάτρῃ ἐνὶ ναιετάασκον,

ἦα πάρος. τῷ μὴ με λίην ὑπεραῖδεο, κούρη,

ἢ τι παρεξέρεσθαι, ὃ τοι φίλον, ἢ τί φάσθαι.

980 ἄλλ’ ἐπεὶ ἀλλήλοισιν ἱκάνομεν εὐμένεοντες,

χώρῳ ἐν ἡγαθέῳ, ἵνα τ’ οὐ θέμις ἔστ’ ἀλιτέσθαι,

ἀμφαδίην ἀγόρευε καὶ εἴρεο: μηδὲ με τερπνοῖς

φηλώσης ἐπέεσσιν, ἐπεὶ τὸ πρῶτον ὑπέστης

αὐτοκασιγνήτη μενοεικέα φάρμακα δώσειν.

985 πρὸς σ’ αὐτῆς Ἑκάτης μειλίσσομαι ἡδὲ τοκῆν

καὶ Διός, ὃς ξείνοισι ἱκέτησί τε χεῖρ’ ὑπερίσχει:

ἀμφοτέρων δ’, ἱκέτης ξεινός τέ τοι ἐνθάδ’ ἱκάνω,

χρειοὶ ἀναγκαίῃ γουνοόμενος. οὐ γὰρ ἄνευθεν

ὑμείων στονόεντος ὑπέρτερος ἔσσομ’ ἀέθλου.

990 σοὶ δ’ ἂν ἐγὼ τίσαιμι χάριν μετόπισθεν ἀρωγῆς,

ἢ θέμις, ὥς ἐπέοικε διάνδιχα ναιετάοντας,

οὔνομα καὶ καλὸν τεύχων κλέος: ὧς δὲ καὶ ὦλλοι

ἦρωες κλήσουσιν ἐς Ἑλλάδα νοστήσαντες

ἡρώων τ’ ἄλοχοι καὶ μητέρες, αἱ νύ που ἦδη

995 ἡμέας ἠιόνεσσιν ἐφεζόμεναι γοάουσιν:

τάων ἀργαλέας κεν ἀποσκεδάσειας ἀνίας.

δὴ ποτε καὶ Θησῆα κακῶν ὑπελύσατ’ ἀέθλων

παρθενικὴ Μινωῖς εὐφρονέουσ’ Ἀριάδνη,

ἦν ῥά τε Πασιφάη κούρη τέκεν Ἥελίοιο.

1000 ἄλλ’ ἡ μὲν καὶ νηός, ἐπεὶ χόλον εὐνασε Μίνως,

σὺν τῷ ἐφεζομένη πάτρην λίπε: τὴν δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ

ἄθάνατοι φίλαντο, μέσῳ δέ οἱ αἰθέρι τέκμαρ

ἄστερόεις στέφανος, τόν τε κλείουσ’ Ἀριάδνης,

πάννυχος οὐρανίοισιν ἐλίσσεται εἰδώλοισιν.

1005 ὧς καὶ σοὶ θεόθεν χάρις ἔσσεται, εἴ κε σωώσης

τόσσον ἀριστήων ἀνδρῶν στόλον. ἦ γὰρ ἔοικας

ἐκ μορφῆς ἀγανῆσιν ἐπητεῖησι κεκάσθαι.’

[973] And Aeson's son saw that she had fallen into some heaven-sent calamity, and with soothing words thus addressed her: "Why, pray, maiden, dost thou fear me so much, all alone as I am? Never was I one of these idle boasters such as other men are — not even aforetime, when I dwelt in my own country. Wherefore, maiden, be not too much abashed before me, either to enquire whatever thou wilt or to speak thy mind. But since we have met one another with friendly hearts, in a hallowed spot, where it is wrong to sin, speak openly and ask questions, and beguile me not with pleasing words, for at the first thou didst promise thy sister to give me the charms my heart desires. I implore thee by Hecate herself, by thy parents, and by Zeus who holds his guardian hand over strangers and suppliants; I come here to thee both a suppliant and a stranger, bending the knee in my sore need. For without thee and thy sister never shall I prevail in the grievous contest. And to thee will I render thanks hereafter for thy aid, as is right and fitting for men who dwell far oft, making glorious thy name and fame; and the rest of the heroes, returning to Hellas, will spread thy renown and so will the heroes' wives and mothers, who now perhaps are sitting on the shore and making moan for us; their painful affliction thou mightest scatter to the winds. In days past the maiden Ariadne, daughter of Minos, with kindly intent rescued Theseus from grim contests — the maiden whom Pasiphae daughter of Helios bare. But she, when Minos had lulled his wrath to rest, went aboard the ship with him and left her fatherland; and her even the immortal gods loved, and, as a sign in mid-sky, a crown of stars, which men call Ariadne's crown, rolls along all night among the heavenly constellations. So to thee too shall be thanks from the gods, if thou wilt save so mighty an array of chieftains. For surely from thy lovely form thou art like to excel in gentle courtest."

ὥς φάτο κυδαίνων· ἡ δ' ἐγκλιδὸν ὄσσε βαλοῦσα
νεκτάρειον μείδῃσ' ἐχύθη δέ οἱ ἔνδοθι θυμὸς
1010 αἶψα ἀειρομένης, καὶ ἀνέδρακεν ὄμμασιν ἄντην·
οὐδ' ἔχεν ὅττι πάροιθεν ἔπος προτιμυθήσαιο,
ἀλλ' ἄμυδις μενέαιεν ἀολλέα πάντ' ἀγορευσαί.
προπρὸ δ' ἀφειδήσασα θυώδεος ἔξελε μίτρης
φάρμακον· αὐτὰρ ὅγ' αἶψα χεροῖν ὑπέδεκτο γεγηθώς.
1015 καὶ νῦν κέ οἱ καὶ πᾶσαν ἀπὸ στηθέων ἀρύσασα
ψυχὴν ἐγγυάλιξεν ἀγαιομένη χατέοντι·
τοῖος ἀπὸ ξανθοῖο καρήατος Αἰσονίδαο
στράπτειν Ἔρως ἠδεῖαν ἀπὸ φλόγα· τῆς δ' ἄμαρυγὰς
ὀφθαλμῶν ἥρπαζεν· ἰαίνεται δὲ φρένας εἴσω
1020 τηκομένη, οἷόν τε περὶ ῥοδέησιν ἐέρση
τήκεται ἠφροῖσιν ἰαινομένη φαέεσσιν.
ἄμφω δ' ἄλλοτε μὲν τε κατ' οὐδέος ὄμματ' ἔρειδον
αἰδόμενοι, ὅτε δ' αὖτις ἐπὶ σφίσι βάλλον ὀπωπᾶς,
ἱμερόεν φαιδρῆσιν ὑπ' ὀφρῦσι μειδιῶντες.

[1008] Thus he spake, honouring her; and she cast her eyes down with a smile divinely sweet; and her soul melted within her, uplifted by his praise, and she gazed upon him face to face; nor did she know what word to utter first, but was eager to pour out everything at once. And forth from her fragrant girdle ungrudgingly she brought out the charm; and he at once received it in his hands with joy. And she would even have drawn out all her soul from her breast and given it to him, exulting in his desire; so wonderfully did love flash forth a sweet flame from the golden head of Aeson's son; and he captivated her gleaming eyes; and her heart within grew warm, melting away as the dew melts away round roses when warmed by the morning's light. And now both were fixing their eyes on the ground abashed, and again were throwing glances at each other, smiling with the light of love beneath their radiant brows.

1025 ὃψὲ δὲ δὴ τοίοισι μόλις προσπτύξατο κούρη:
‘φράζεο νῦν, ὥς κέν τοι ἐγὼ μητίσομ’ ἄρωγῇν.
εὗτ’ ἂν δὴ μετιόντι πατὴρ ἐμὸς ἐγγυαλίξῃ
ἐξ ὄφιος γενύων ὀλοοὺς σπεύρασθαι ὀδόντας,
δὴ τότε μέσσην νύκτα διαμμοιρηδὰ φυλάζας,
1030 ἀκαμάτοιο ῥοῇσι λοεσσάμενος ποταμοῖο,
οἷος ἄνευθ’ ἄλλων ἐνὶ φάρεσι κυανέοισιν
βόθρον ὀρύξασθαι περιηγέα: τῷ δ’ ἐνὶ θῆλυν
ἄρνειδὸν σφάζειν, καὶ ἀδαίετον ὠμοθετῆσαι,
αὐτῷ πυρκαϊὴν εὖ νηήσας ἐπὶ βόθρῳ.
1035 μουνογενῇ δ’ Ἑκάτην Περσηίδα μελίσσοιο,
λείβων ἐκ δέπαος συμβλήια ἔργα μελισσέων.
ἐνθα δ’ ἐπεὶ κε θεὰν μεμνημένος ἰλάσσηαι,
ἂψ ἀπὸ πυρκαϊῆς ἀναχάξω: μηδέ σε δοῦπος
ἥε ποδῶν ὄρρησι μεταστρεφθῆναι ὀπίσσω,
1040 ἥε κυνῶν ὕλακῇ, μὴ πως τὰ ἕκαστα κολούσας
οὐδ’ αὐτὸς κατὰ κόσμον ἐοῖς ἐτάροισι πελάσσης.
ἦρι δὲ μυδήνας τόδε φάρμακον, ἡὕτ’ ἄλοφιῇ
γυμνωθεὶς φαίδρυνε τεδὸν δέμας: ἐν δέ οἱ ἄλκῃ
ἔσσειτ’ ἀπειρεσίῃ μέγα τε σθένος, οὐδέ κε φαίης
1045 ἀνδράσιν, ἀλλὰ θεοῖσιν ἰσαζέμεν ἀθανάτοισιν.
πρὸς δὲ καὶ αὐτῷ δουρὶ σάκος πεπαλαγμένον ἔστω
καὶ ξίφος. ἔνθ’ οὐκ ἂν σε διατμήξειαν ἀκωκαὶ
γηγενέων ἀνδρῶν, οὐδ’ ἄσχετος αἰσσουσα
φλόξ ὀλοῶν ταύρων. τοῖός γε μὲν οὐκ ἐπὶ δηρὸν
1050 ἔσσειαι, ἀλλ’ αὐτῆμαρ: ὅμως σύγε μὴ ποτ’ ἀέθλου
χάξω. καὶ δέ τοι ἄλλο παρὲξ ὑποθήσομ’ ὄνειρα.
αὐτίκ’ ἐπὶ κρρατεροὺς ζεύξης βόας, ὧκα δὲ πᾶσαν
χερσὶ καὶ ἡνωρέῃ στυφελὴν διὰ νειδὸν ἀρόσσης,
οἱ δ’ ἦδη κατὰ ὧλκας ἀνασταχύωσι Γίγαντες
1055 σπειρομένων ὄφιος δνοφερὴν ἐπὶ βῶλον ὀδόντων,

αἶ κεν ὀρινομένους πολέας νειοῖο δοκεύσης,
λάθρη λαῶν ἄφες στιβαρώτερον· οἱ δ' ἂν ἐπ' αὐτῷ,
καρχαλέοι κύνες ὥστε περὶ βρώμης, ὀλέκοινεν
ἀλλήλους· καὶ δ' αὐτὸς ἐπέιγεο δημοτῆτος
1060 ἰθῦσαι. τὸ δὲ κῶας ἐς Ἑλλάδα τοῖό γ' ἔκητι
οἴσεται ἐξ Αἴης τηλοῦ ποθί· νίσσεο δ' ἔμπης,
ἧ φίλον, ἧ τοι ἔαδεν ἀφορμηθέντι νέεσθαι.'

[1025] And at last and scarcely then did the maiden greet him: "Take heed now, that I may devise help for thee. When at thy coming my father has given thee the deadly teeth from the dragon's jaws for sowing, then watch for the time when the night is parted in twain, then bathe in the stream of the tireless river, and alone, apart from others, clad in dusky raiment, dig a rounded pit; and therein slay a ewe, and sacrifice it whole, heaping high the pyre on the very edge of the pit. And propitiate only-begotten Hecate, daughter of Perses, pouring from a goblet the hive-stored labour of bees. And then, when thou hast heedfully sought the grace of the goddess, retreat from the pyre; and let neither the sound of feet drive thee to turn back, nor the baying of hounds, lest haply thou shouldst maim all the rites and thyself fail to return duly to thy comrades. And at dawn steep this charm in water, strip, and anoint thy body therewith as with oil; and in it there will be boundless prowess and mighty strength, and thou wilt deem thyself a match not for men but for the immortal gods. And besides, let thy spear and shield and sword be sprinkled. Thereupon the spear-heads of the earthborn men shall not pierce thee, nor the flame of the deadly bulls as it rushes forth resistless. But such thou shalt be not for long, but for that one day; still never flinch from the contest. And I will tell thee besides of yet another help. As soon as thou hast yoked the strong oxen, and with thy might and thy prowess hast ploughed all the stubborn fallow, and now along the furrows the Giants are springing up, when the serpent's teeth are sown on the dusky clods, if thou markest them uprising in throngs from the fallow, cast unseen among them a massy stone; and they over it, like ravening hounds over their food, will slay one another; and do thou thyself hasten to rush to the battle- strife, and the fleece thereupon thou shalt bear far away from Aea; nevertheless, depart wherever thou wilt, or thy pleasure takes thee, when thou hast gone hence."

ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη, καὶ σῖγα ποδῶν πάρος ὅσσε βαλοῦσα
θεσπέσιον λιαροῖσι παρηίδα δάκρυσι δεῦεν
1065 μυρομένη, ὃ τ' ἔμελλεν ἀπόπροθι πολλὸν εἶοι
πόντον ἐπιπλάγξεσθαι· ἀνιρῶ δέ μιν ἄντην
ἐξαῦτις μύθῳ προσεφώνεεν, εἶλέ τε χειρὸς
δεξιτερῆς· δὴ γάρ οἱ ἀπ' ὀφθαλμοῦς λίπεν αἰδώς·
'μνώεο δ', ἦν ἄρα δὴ ποθ' ὑπότροπος οἴκαδ' ἵκηαι,
1070 οὔνομα Μηδείης· ὥς δ' αὖτ' ἐγὼ ἀμφὶς ἐόντος
μνήσομαι. εἰπὲ δέ μοι πρόφρων τόδε, πῇ τοι ἔασιν

δῶματα, πῇ νῦν ἔνθεν ὑπεῖρ ἄλλα νηὶ περιήσεις;
ἢ νύ που ἀφνειοῦ σχεδὸν ἵξεαι Ὀρχομενοῖο,
ἦε καὶ Αἰαΐης νήσου πέλας; εἰπέ δὲ κούρην,
1075 ἦντινα τήνδ' ὀνόμηνας ἀριγνώτην γεγαυῖαν
Πασιφάης, ἥ πατρὸς ὁμόγνιός ἐστιν ἐμεῖο.'

[1063] Thus she spake, and cast her eyes to her feet in silence, and her cheek, divinely fair, was wet with warm tears as she sorrowed for that he was about to wander far from her side over the wide sea: and once again she addressed him face to face with mournful words, and took his right hand; for now shame had left her eyes: "Remember, if haply thou returnest to thy home, Medea's name; and so will I remember thine, though thou be far away. And of thy kindness tell me this, where is thy home, whither wilt thou sail hence in thy ship over the sea; wilt thou come near wealthy Orchomenus, or near the Aeaeon isle? And tell me of the maiden, whosoever she be that thou hast named, the far-renowned daughter of Pasiphae, who is kinswoman to my father."

ὥς φάτο: τὸν δὲ καὶ αὐτὸν ὑπῆιε δάκρυσι κούρης
οὐλὸς Ἔρω, τοῖον δὲ παραβλήδην ἔπος ἡῦδα:
'καὶ λήν οὐ νύκτας ὁίομαι, οὐδέ ποτ' ἦμαρ
1080 σεῦ ἐπιλήσεσθαι, προφυγὼν μόρον, εἰ ἐτεόν γε
φεύξομαι ἀσκηθῆς ἐς Ἀχαιίδα, μηδέ τιν' ἄλλον
Αἰήτης προβάλλῃσι κακώτερον ἄμμιν ἄεθλον.
εἰ δέ τοι ἡμετέρην ἐξιδμεναι εὔαδε πάτρην,
ἐξερέω: μάλα γάρ με καὶ αὐτὸν θυμὸς ἀνώγει.
1085 ἔστι τις αἰπεινοῖσι περὶδρομος οὖρεσι γαῖα,
πάμπαν ἐύρρηνός τε καὶ εὐβοτός, ἔνθα Προμηθεὺς
Ἰαπετιονίδης ἀγαθὸν τέκε Δευκαλίωνα,
ὃς πρῶτος ποίησε πόλεις καὶ ἐδείματο νηοὺς
ἀθανάτοισι, πρῶτος δὲ καὶ ἀνθρώπων βασιλευσεν.
1090 Αἰμονίην δὴ τήνγε περικτίονες καλέουσιν.
ἐν δ' αὐτῇ Ἰαωλκός, ἐμὴ πόλις, ἐν δὲ καὶ ἄλλαι
πολλαὶ ναιετάουσιν, ἴν' οὐδέ περ οὔνομ' ἀκοῦσαι
Αἰαΐης νήσου: Μινύην γε μὲν ὀρμηθέντα,
Αἰολίδην Μινύην ἔνθεν φάτις Ὀρχομενοῖο
1095 δὴ ποτε Καδμείοισιν ὁμοῦριον ἄστν πολίσσαι.
ἀλλὰ τίη τάδε τοι μεταμῶνια πάντ' ἀγορεύω,
ἡμετέρους τε δόμους τηλεκλείτην τ' Ἀριάδην,
κούρην Μίνωος, τόπερ ἀγλαὸν οὔνομα κείνην
παρθενικὴν καλέεσκον ἐπήρατον, ἦν μ' ἐρεεῖνεις;
1100 αἶθε γάρ, ὥς Θησῆι τότε ξυναρέσσατο Μίνως
ἀμφ' αὐτῆς, ὥς ἄμμι πατὴρ τεδὸς ἄρθμιος εἴη.'

[1077] Thus she spake; and over him too, at the tears of the maiden, stole Love

the destroyer, and he thus answered her: "All too surely do I deem that never by night and never by day will I forget thee if I escape death and indeed make my way in safety to the Achaean land, and Aeetes set not before us some other contest worse than this. And if it pleases thee to know about my fatherland, I will tell it out; for indeed my own heart bids me do that. There is a land encircled by lofty mountains, rich in sheep and in pasture, where Prometheus, son of Iapetus, begat goodly Deucalion, who first founded cities and reared temples to the immortal gods, and first ruled over men. This land the neighbours who dwell around call Haemonia. And in it stands Iolcus, my city, and in it many others, where they have not so much as heard the name of the Aeaeon isle; yet there is a story that Minyas starting thence, Minyas son of Aeolus, built long ago the city of Orchomenus that borders on the Cadmeians. But why do I tell thee all this vain talk, of our home and of Minos' daughter, far-famed Ariadne, by which glorious name they called that lovely maiden of whom thou askest me? Would that, as Minos then was well inclined to Theseus for her sake, so may thy father be joined to us in friendship!"

ὥς φάτο, μείλιχίοισι καταψήγων ὁάροισιν.
τῆς δ' ἄλεγεινόταται κραδίην ἐρέθεσκον ἀνῖαι,
καί μιν ἀκηχεμένη ἀδινῶ προσπτόξατο μύθῳ:
1105 Ἑλλάδι που τάδε καλά, συνημοσύνας ἀλεγύνειν.
Αἰήτης δ' οὐ τοῖος ἐν ἀνδράσιν, οἷον ἔειπας
Μίνω Πασιφάης πόσιν ἔμμεναι: οὐδ' Ἀριάδνῃ
ἰσοῦμαι: τῷ μήτι φιλοξενίην ἀγόρευε.
ἀλλ' οἷον τὴν μὲν ἔμευ, ὅτ' Ἴωλκὸν ἵκηαι,
1110 μνώεο: σείο δ' ἐγὼ καὶ ἐμῶν ἀέκητι τοκήων
μνήσομαι. ἔλθοι δ' ἥμιν ἀπόπροθεν ἢ τις ὄσσα,
ἢ τις ἄγγελος ὄρνις, ὅτ' ἐκλελάθοιο ἐμεῖο:
ἢ αὐτὴν με ταχεῖαι ὑπὲρ πόντοιο φέροιεν
ἐνθένδ' εἰς Ἴωλκὸν ἀναρπάξασαι ἄλλαι,
1115 ὄφρα σ', ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἐλεγχείας προφέρουσα,
μνήσω ἐμῇ ἰότητι πεφυγμένον. αἶθε γὰρ εἶην
ἀπροφάτως τότε σοῖσιν ἐφέστιος ἐν μεγάροισιν.'

[1102] Thus he spake, soothing her with gentle converse. But pangs most bitter stirred her heart and in grief did she address him with vehement words: "In Hellas, I ween, this is fair to pay heed to covenants; but Aeetes is not such a man among men as thou sayest was Pasiphae's husband, Minos; nor can I liken myself to Ariadne; wherefore speak not of guest-love. But only do thou, when thou hast reached Iolcus, remember me, and thee even in my parents' despite, will I remember. And from far off may a rumour come to me or some messenger-bird, when thou forgettest me; or me, even me, may swift blasts catch up and bear over the sea hence to Iolcus, that so I may cast reproaches in thy face and remind thee that it was by my good will thou didst escape. May I then be seated in thy halls, an unexpected guest!"

ὧς ἄρ' ἔφη, ἔλεεινὰ καταπροχέουσα παρειῶν
 δάκρυα: τὴν δ' ὄγε δῆθεν ὑποβλήδην προσέειπεν:
 1120 'δαιμονίη, κενεᾷς μὲν ἔα πλάζεσθαι ἀέλλας,
 ὧς δὲ καὶ ἄγγελον ὄρνιν, ἐπεὶ μεταμώνια βάζεις.
 εἰ δέ κεν ἦθεα κεῖνα καὶ Ἑλλάδα γαῖαν ἵκηαι,
 τιμήσσω γυναιξὶ καὶ ἀνδράσιν αἰδοίη τε
 ἔσσαι: οἱ δέ σε πάγχυ θεὸν ὧς πορσανέουσιν,
 1125 οὐνεκα τῶν μὲν παῖδες ὑπότηροποι οἴκαδ' ἵκοντο
 σῇ βουλῇ, τῶν δ' αὖτε κασίγνητοὶ τε ἔται τε
 καὶ θαλεροὶ κακότητος ἄδην ἐσάωθεν ἀκοῖται.
 ἡμέτερον δὲ λέχος θαλάμοις ἐνὶ κουριδίοις
 πορσυνέεις: οὐδ' ἄμμε διακρινέει φιλότητος
 1130 ἄλλο, πάρος θάνατόν γε μεμορμένον ἀμφικαλύψαι.'

[1118] Thus she spake with piteous tears falling down her cheeks, and to her Jason replied: "Let the empty blasts wander at will, lady, and the messenger-bird, for vain is thy talk. But if thou comest to those abodes and to the land of Hellas, honoured and revered shalt thou be by women and men; and they shall worship thee even as a goddess, for that by thy counsel their sons came home again, their brothers and kinsmen and stalwart husbands were saved from calamity. And in our bridal chamber shalt thou prepare our couch; and nothing shall come between our love till the doom of death fold us round."

ὧς φάτο: τῇ δ' ἔντοσθε κατεῖβετο θυμὸς ἀκουῆ,
 ἔμπης δ' ἔργ' αἰδέηλα κατερρίγησεν ιδέσθαι.
 σχετλίη: οὐ μὲν δηρὸν ἀπαρνήσεσθαι ἔμελλεν
 Ἑλλάδα ναιετάειν. ὧς γὰρ τόδε μῆδετο Ἥρη,
 1135 ὄφρα κακὸν Πελίῃ ἱερὴν ἐς Ἴωλκὸν ἵκοιτο
 Αἰαίῃ Μήδεια, λιποῦσ' ἄπο πατρίδα γαῖαν.

[1131] Thus he spake; and her soul melted within her to hear his words; nevertheless she shuddered to behold the deeds of destruction to come. Poor wretch! Not long was she destined to refuse a home in Hellas. For thus Hera devised it, that Aeaean Medea might come to Ioleus for a bane to Pelias, forsaking her native land.

ἦδη δ' ἀμφίπολοι μὲν ὀπιπεύουσαι ἄπωθεν
 σιγῇ ἀνιάζεσκον: ἐδεύετο δ' ἡματος ὥρη
 ἄν οἰκόνδε νέεσθαι ἐὴν μετὰ μητέρα κούρην.
 1140 ἡ δ' οὐπω κομιδῆς μιμνήσκετο, τέρπετο γάρ οἱ
 θυμὸς ὁμῶς μορφῇ τε καὶ αἰμυλίοισι λόγοισιν,
 εἰ μὴ ἄρ' Αἰσονίδης πεφυλαγμένος ὧπὲρ ἠΐδα:
 'ὥρη ἀποβλώσκειν, μὴ πρὶν φάος ἡελίοιο
 δύη ὑποφθάμενον, καὶ τις τὰ ἕκαστα νοήσῃ
 1145 ὀθνεῖων: αὐτίς δ' ἀβολήσομεν ἐνθάδ' ἰόντες.'

[1137] And now her handmaids, glancing at them from a distance, were grieving in silence; and the time of day required that the maiden should return home to her mother's side. But she thought not yet of departing, for her soul delighted both in his beauty and in his winsome words, but Aeson's son took heed, and spake at last, though late: "It is time to depart, lest the sunlight sink before we know it, and some stranger notice all; but again will we come and meet here."

ὥς τῶγ' ἀλλήλων ἀγανοῖς ἐπὶ τόσσον ἔπεσιν
πεῖρηθεν: μετὰ δ' αὖτε διέτμαγεν. ἦτοι Ἰήσων
εἰς ἐτάρους καὶ νῆα κεχαρμένος ὦρτο νέεσθαι:
ἡ δὲ μετ' ἀμφιπόλους: αἱ δὲ σχεδὸν ἀντεβόλησαν
1150 πᾶσαι ὁμοῦ: τὰς δ' οὔτι περιπλομένας ἐνόησεν.

ψυχὴ γὰρ νεφέεσσι μεταχρονίη πεπότητο.
αὐτομάτοις δὲ πόδεσσι θοῆς ἐπεβήσατ' ἀπήνης,
καὶ ῥ' ἐτέρῃ μὲν χειρὶ λάβ' ἡνία, τῇ δ' ἄρ' ἰμάσθλην
δαϊδαλέην, οὐρῆας ἐλαυνέμεν: οἱ δὲ πόλινδε
1155 θύνον ἐπειγόμενοι ποτὶ δώματα. τὴν δ' ἄρ' ἰοῦσαν
Χαλκίῳ περὶ παισὶν ἀκηχεμένη ἐρέεινεν:
ἡ δὲ παλιντροπήσιν ἀμήχανος οὔτε τι μύθων
ἔκλυεν, οὔτ' αὐδῆσαι ἀνειρομένη λελίητο.
ἔζε δ' ἐπὶ χθαμαλῷ σφέλαϊ κλιντῆρος ἔνερθεν
1160 λέχρις ἐρειαμένη λαιῇ ἐπὶ χειρὶ παρείη:
ὕγρα δ' ἐνὶ βλεφάροις ἔχεν ὄμματα, πορφύρουσα
οἶον ἔῃ κακὸν ἔργον ἐπιζυνώσατο βουλῇ.

[1146] So did they two make trial of one another thus far with gentle words; and thereafter parted. Jason hastened to return in joyous mood to his comrades and the ship, she to her handmaids; and they all together came near to meet her, but she marked them not at all as they thronged around. For her soul had soared aloft amid the clouds. And her feet of their own accord mounted the swift chariot, and with one hand she took the reins, and with the other the whip of cunning workmanship, to drive the mules; and they rushed hasting to the city and the palace. And when she was come Chalciope in grief for her sons questioned her; but Medea, distraught by swiftly-changing thoughts, neither heard her words nor was eager to speak in answer to her questions. But she sat upon a low stool at the foot of her couch, bending down, her cheek leaning on her left hand, and her eyes were wet with tears as she pondered what an evil deed she had taken part in by her counsels.

Αἰσονίδης δ' ὅτε δὴ ἐτάροις ἐξαῦτις ἔμικτο
ἐν χώρῃ, ὅθι τούσγε καταπρολιπὼν ἐλιάσθη,
1165 ὦρτ' ἰέναι σὺν τοῖσι, πιφασκόμενος τὰ ἕκαστα,
ἠρώων ἐς ὅμιλον: ὁμοῦ δ' ἐπὶ νῆα πέλασσαν.
οἱ δέ μιν ἀμφαγάπαζον, ὅπως ἴδον, ἔκ τ' ἐρέοντο.
αὐτὰρ ὁ τοῖς πάντεσσι μετέννεπε δῆνεα κούρης,

δεῖξέ τε φάρμακον αἰνόν· ὁ δ' οἴοθεν οἶος ἐταίρων
 1170 Ἴδας ἦστ' ἀπάνευθε δακῶν χόλον· οἱ δὲ δὴ ἄλλοι
 γηθόσυνοι τῆμος μὲν, ἐπεὶ κνέφας ἔργαθε νυκτός,
 εὐκηλοὶ ἐμέλοντο περὶ σφίσιν. αὐτὰρ ἄμ' ἦοι
 πέμπον ἐς Αἰήτην ἰέναι σπόρον αἰτήσοντας
 ἄνδρε δύω, πρὸ μὲν αὐτὸν ἀρηίφιλον Τελαμῶνα,
 1175 σὺν δὲ καὶ Αἰθαλίδην, υἷα κλυτὸν Ἑρμείαο.
 βὰν δ' ἴμεν, οὐδ' ἀλίωσαν ὁδόν· πόρε δέ σφιν ἰοῦσιν
 κρείων Αἰήτης χαλεποὺς ἐς ἄεθλον ὁδόντας
 Ἀονίοιο δράκοντος, ὃν Ὠγυγίῃ ἐνὶ Θήβῃ
 Κάδμος, ὅτ' Εὐρώπην διζήμενος εἰσαφίκανεν,
 1180 πέφνεν Ἀρητιάδι κρήνῃ ἐπίουρον ἐόντα·
 ἔνθα καὶ ἐννάσθη πομπῇ βοός, ἣν οἱ Ἀπόλλων
 ὥπασε μαντοσύνησι προηγῆταιραν ὁδοῖο.
 τοὺς δὲ θεὰ Τριτωνίς ὑπέκ γενύων ἐλάσασα
 Αἰήτη πόρε δῶρον ὁμῶς αὐτῷ τε φονῇ.
 1185 καὶ ῥ' ὁ μὲν Ἀονίοισιν ἐνισπείρας πεδίοισιν
 Κάδμος Ἀγηνορίδης γαιηγενῇ εἷσατο λαόν,
 Ἄρεος ἀμώνοντος ὅσοι ὑπὸ δουρὶ λίποντο·
 τοὺς δὲ τότε Αἰήτης ἔπορεν μετὰ νῆα φέρεσθαι
 προφρονέως, ἐπεὶ οὐ μιν οἴσσατο πείρατ' ἀέθλου
 1190 ἐξανύσειν, εἰ καὶ περ ἐπὶ ζυγὰ βουσὶ βάλοιτο.

[1163] Now when Aeson's son had joined his comrades again in the spot where he had left them when he departed, he set out to go with them, telling them all the story, to the gathering of the heroes; and together they approached the ship. And when they saw Jason they embraced him and questioned him. And he told to all the counsels of the maiden and showed the dread charm; but Idas alone of his comrades sat apart biting down his wrath; and the rest joyous in heart, at the hour when the darkness of night stayed them, peacefully took thought for themselves. But at daybreak they sent two men to go to Aeetes and ask for the seed, first Telamon himself, dear to Ares, and with him Aethalides, Hermes' famous son. So they went and made no vain journey; but when they came, lordly Aeetes gave them for the contest the fell teeth of the Aonian dragon which Cadmus found in Ogygian Thebes when he came seeking for Europa and there slew the — warder of the spring of Ares. There he settled by the guidance of the heifer whom Apollo by his prophetic word granted him to lead him on his way. But the teeth the Tritonian goddess tore away from the dragon's jaws and bestowed as a gift upon Aeetes and the slayer. And Agenor's son, Cadmus, sowed them on the Aonian plains and founded an earthborn people of all who were left from the spear when Ares did the reaping; and the teeth Aeetes then readily gave to be borne to the ship, for he deemed not that Jason would bring the contest to an end, even though he should cast the yoke upon the oxen.

ἡέλιος μὲν ἄπωθεν ἔρεμνῇν δύετο γαῖαν
 ἑσπέριος, νεάτας ὑπὲρ ἄκριας Αἰθιοπῶν·
 νύξ δ' ἵπποισιν ἔβαλλεν ἐπὶ ζυγά· τοὶ δὲ χαμεύνας
 ἔντυον ἥρωες παρὰ πείσμασιν. αὐτὰρ Ἴησων
 1195 αὐτίκ' ἐπεὶ ῥ' Ἑλίκης εὐφεγγέος ἀστέρες Ἄρκτου
 ἔκλιθεν, οὐρανόθεν δὲ πανεύκηλος γένετ' αἰθήρ,
 βῆ ῥ' ἐς ἐρημαίην, κλωπῆιος ἤυτε τις φῶρ,
 σὺν πᾶσιν χρήεσσι· πρὸ γάρ τ' ἀλέγυνεν ἕκαστα
 ἡμάτιος· θῆλυν μὲν οἶν, γάλα τ' ἔκτοθι ποιίμνης
 1200 Ἄργος ἰὼν ἤνεικε· τὰ δ' ἐξ αὐτῆς ἔλε νηός.
 ἀλλ' ὅτε δὴ ἶδε χῶρον, ὅτις πάτου ἔκτοθεν ἦεν
 ἀνθρώπων, καθαρῇσιν ὑπεύδιος εἰάμενῃσιν,
 ἔνθ' ἦτοι πάμπρωτα λοέσσατο μὲν ποταμοῖο
 εὐαγέως θείοιο τέρεν δέμας· ἀμφὶ δὲ φᾶρος
 1205 ἔσσατο κυάνεον, τό ῥά οἱ πάρος ἐγγυάλιξεν
 Λημνιάς Ὑψιπύλη, ἀδινῆς μνημήιον εὐνῆς.
 πῆχυν δ' ἄρ' ἔπειτα πέδῳ ἐνὶ βόθρον ὀρύξας
 νήησε σχίζας, ἐπὶ δ' ἀρνειοῦ τάμε λαιμόν,
 αὐτόν τ' εὖ καθύπερθε τανύσσατο· δαΐε δὲ φिटρους
 1210 πῦρ ὑπένερθεν ἰεῖς, ἐπὶ δὲ μιγάδας χέε λοιβάς,
 Βριμῶ κυκλήσκων Ἑκάτην ἐπαρωγὸν ἀέθλων.
 καὶ ῥ' ὁ μὲν ἀγκαλέσας πάλιν ἔστιχεν· ἡ δ' αἰόουσα
 κευθῶν ἐξ ὑπάτων δεινὴ θεὸς ἀντεβόλησεν
 ἱροῖς Αἰσονίδαο· πέριξ δέ μιν ἑστεφάνωντο
 1215 σμερδαλέοι δρυῖνοισι μετὰ πτόρθοισι δράκοντες.
 στράπτε δ' ἀπειρέσιον δαΐδων σέλας· ἀμφὶ δὲ τήνγε
 ὀξεῖη ὑλακῇ χθόνιοι κύνες ἐφθέγγοντο.
 πίσεια δ' ἔτρεμε πάντα κατὰ στίβον· αἱ δ' ὀλόλυξαν
 νόμφαι ἐλειονόμοι ποταμηίδες, αἱ περὶ κείνην
 1220 Φάσιδος εἰάμενῇν Ἀμαραντίου εἰλίσσονται.
 Αἰσονίδην δ' ἦτοι μὲν ἔλεν δέος, ἀλλὰ μιν οὐδ' ὧς
 ἐντροπαλιζόμενον πόδες ἔκφερον, ὄφρ' ἐτάροισιν
 μίκτο κιών· ἥδη δὲ φόως νιφόεντος ὑπερθεν
 Καυκάσου ἠριγενῆς Ἡὼς βάλεν ἀντέλλουσα.

[1191] Far away in the west the sun was sailing beneath the dark earth, beyond the furthest hills of the Ethiopians; and Night was laying the yoke upon her steeds; and the heroes were preparing their beds by the hawsers. But Jason, as soon as the stars of Helice, the bright-gleaming bear, had set, and the air had all grown still under heaven, went to a desert spot, like some stealthy thief, with all that was needful; for beforehand in the daytime had he taken thought for everything; and Argus came bringing a ewe and milk from the flock; and them he took from the ship. But when the hero saw a place which was far away from the tread of men, in a clear meadow beneath the open sky, there first of all he bathed his tender body reverently in the sacred river; and round

him he placed a dark robe, which Hypsipyle of Lemnos had given him aforetime, a memorial of many a loving embrace. Then he dug a pit in the ground of a cubit's depth and heaped up billets of wood, and over it he cut the throat of the sheep, and duly placed the carcase above; and he kindled the logs placing fire beneath, and poured over them mingled libations, calling on Hecate Brimo to aid him in the contests. And when he had called on her he drew back; and she heard him, the dread goddess, from the uttermost depths and came to the sacrifice of Aeson's son; and round her horrible serpents twined themselves among the oak boughs; and there was a gleam of countless torches; and sharply howled around her the hounds of hell. All the meadows trembled at her step; and the nymphs that haunt the marsh and the river shrieked, all who dance round that mead of Amarantian Phasis. And fear seized Aeson's son, but not even so did he turn round as his feet bore him forth, till he came back to his comrades; and now early dawn arose and shed her light above snowy Caucasus.

1225 καὶ τότε ἄρ' Αἰήτης περὶ μὲν στήθεσσιν ἔεστο

θώρηκα στάδιον, τὸν οἱ πόρεν ἐξεναρίζας

σφωιτέραις Φλεγραῖον Ἄρης ὑπὸ χερσὶ Μίμαντα:

χρυσεῖν δ' ἐπὶ κρατὶ κόρυν θέτο τετραφάλῃρον,

λαμπομένην οἷόν τε περίτροχον ἔπλετο φέγγος

1230 ἡελίου, ὅτε πρῶτον ἀνέρχεται Ὠκεανοῖο.

ἂν δὲ πολύρρινον νόμα σάκος, ἂν δὲ καὶ ἔγχος

δεινόν, ἀμαιμάκετον: τὸ μὲν οὐδέ τις ἄλλος ὑπέστη

ἀνδρῶν ἠρώων, ὅτε κάλλιπον Ἡρακλῆα

τῆλε παρέξ, ὃ κεν οἷος ἐναντίβιον πολέμιξεν.

1235 τῷ δὲ καὶ ὠκυπόδων ἵππων εὐπηγέα δίφρον

ἔσχε πέλας Φαέθων ἐπιβήμεναι: ἂν δὲ καὶ αὐτὸς

βῆσατο, ῥυτῆρας δὲ χεροῖν ἔχεν. ἐκ δὲ πόληος

ἤλασεν εὐρεΐαν κατ' ἀμαξιτόν, ὥς κεν ἀέθλω

παρσταίῃ: σὺν δὲ σφιν ἀπείριτος ἔσσυτο λαός.

1240 οἷος δ' Ἴσθμιον εἴσι Ποσειδάων ἐς ἀγῶνα

ἄρμασιν ἐμβεβαώς, ἢ Ταίναρον, ἢ ὄγε Λέρνης

ὔδωρ, ἢ ἐ κατ' ἄλσος Ὑαντίου Ὀγχηστοῖο,

καὶ τε Καλαύρειαν μετὰ δῆθ' ἅμα νίσσεται ἵπποις,

πέτρην θ' Αἰμονίην, ἢ δενδρήεντα Γεραιστόν:

1245 τοῖος ἄρ' Αἰήτης Κόλχων ἀγὸς ἦεν ιδέσθαι.

[1225] Then Aeetes arrayed his breast in the stiff corslet which Ares gave him when he had slain Phlegraean Mimas with his own hands; and upon his head he placed a golden helmet with four plumes, gleaming like the sun's round light when he first rises from Ocean. And he wielded his shield of many hides, and his spear, terrible, resistless; none of the heroes could have withstood its shock now that they had left behind Heracles far away, who alone could have met it in battle. For the king his well-fashioned chariot of swift steeds was

held near at hand by Phaethon, for him to mount; and he mounted, and held the reins in his hands. Then from the city he drove along the broad highway, that he might be present at the contest; and with him a countless multitude rushed forth. And as Poseidon rides, mounted in his chariot, to the Isthmian contest or to Taenarus, or to Lerna's water, or through the grove of Hyantian Onchestus, and thereafter passes even to Calaureia with his steeds, and the Haemonian rock, or well-wooded Geraestus; even so was Aeetes, lord of the Colchians, to behold.

τόφρα δὲ Μηδείης ὑποθημοσύνησιν Ἰήσων
φάρμακα μυδήνας ἡμὲν σάκος ἀμφεπάλυνεν
ἡδὲ δόρυ βριαρόν, περὶ δὲ ξίφος: ἀμφὶ δ' ἑταῖροι
πείρησαν τευχέων βεβημένοι, οὐδ' ἐδύναντο
1250 κείνῳ δόρυ γνάμψαι τυτθὸν γέ περ, ἀλλὰ μάλ' αὐτως
ἀαγὲς κρατερῆσιν ἐνεσκήκει παλάμησιν.
αὐτὰρ ὁ τοῖς ἄμοτον κοτέων Ἀφαρήϊος Ἰῆδας
κόψε παρ' οὐρίαχον μεγάλῳ ξίφει: ἄλτο δ' ἀκωκὴ
ῥαίστηρ ἄκμονος ὥστε, παλιντυπές: οἱ δ' ὁμάδησαν
1255 γηθόσυνοι ἥρωες ἐπ' ἐλπρωῆσιν ἀέθλου.
καὶ δ' αὐτὸς μετέπειτα παλύνετο: δῦ δέ μιν ἀλκὴ
σμερδαλὴ ἄφατός τε καὶ ἄτρομος: αἱ δ' ἐκάτερθεν
χεῖρες ἐπερρώσαντο περὶ σθένει σφριγώσσαι.
ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἀρήϊος ἵππος ἐελδόμενος πολέμοιο
1260 σκαρθμῷ ἐπιχρεμέθων κρούει πέδον, αὐτὰρ ὕπερθεν
κυδιῶν ὀρθοῖσιν ἐπ' οὐασιν αὐχέν' ἀεῖρει:
τοῖος ἄρ' Αἰσονίδης ἐπαγαίετο κάρτεϊ γυῖων.
πολλὰ δ' ἄρ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα μετάρσιον ἵχνος ἔπαλλεν,
ἀσπίδα χαλκεῖν μελῖν τ' ἐν χερσὶ τινάσσων.
1265 φαίης κε ζοφεροῖο κατ' αἰθέρος αἰίσουσαν
χειμερίην στεροπὴν θαμινὸν μεταπαιφάσσεσθαι
ἐκ νεφέων, ὅτ' ἔπειτα μελάντατον ὄμβρον ἄγωνται.
καὶ τότε ἔπειτ' οὐ δηρὸν ἔτι σχήσεσθαι ἀέθλων
μέλλον: ἀτὰρ κληῖσιν ἐπισχερῶ ἰδρυνθέντες
1270 ῥίμφα μάλ' ἐς πεδίον τὸ Ἀρήϊον ἠπείγοντο.
τόσσον δὲ προτέρω πέλεν ἄστεος ἀντιπέρηθεν,
ὅσσον τ' ἐκ βαλβίδος ἐπήβολος ἄρματι νύσσα
γίγνεται, ὅππότε ἄεθλα καταφθιμένοιο ἄνακτος
κηδεμόνες πεζοῖσι καὶ ἱππῆεσσι τίθενται.
1275 τέτμον δ' Αἰήτην τε καὶ ἄλλων ἔθνεα Κόλχων,
τοὺς μὲν Καυκασίοισιν ἐφεσταότας σκοπέλοισιν,
τὸν δ' αὐτοῦ παρὰ χεῖλος ἐλίσσόμενον ποταμοῖο.

[1246] Meanwhile, prompted by Medea, Jason steeped the charm in water and sprinkled with it his shield and sturdy spear, and sword; and his comrades round him made proof of his weapons with might and main, but could not

bend that spear even a little, but it remained firm in their stalwart hands unbroken as before. But in furious rage with them Idas, Aphareus' son, with his great sword hewed at the spear near the butt, and the edge leapt back repelled by the shock, like a hammer from the anvil; and the heroes shouted with joy for their hope in the contest. And then he sprinkled his body, and terrible prowess entered into him, unspeakable, dauntless; and his hands on both sides thrilled vigorously as they swelled with strength. And as when a warlike steed eager for the fight neighs and beats the ground with his hoof, while rejoicing he lifts his neck on high with ears erect; in such wise did Aeson's son rejoice in the strength of his limbs. And often hither and thither did he leap high in air tossing in his hands his shield of bronze and ashen spear. Thou wouldst say that wintry lightning flashing from the gloomy sky kept on darting forth from the clouds what time they bring with them their blackest rainstorm. Not long after that were the heroes to hold back from the contests; but sitting in rows on their benches they sped swiftly on to the plain of Ares. And it lay in front of them on the opposite side of the city, as far off as is the turning-post that a chariot must reach from the starting-point, when the kinsmen of a dead king appoint funeral games for footmen and horsemen. And they found Aeetes and the tribes of the Colchians; these were stationed on the Caucasian heights, but the king by the winding brink of the river.

Αἰσονίδης δ' ὅτε δὴ πρυμνήσια δῆσαν ἑταῖροι,
δὴ ῥα τότε ξὺν δουρὶ καὶ ἀσπίδι βαῖν' ἐς ἄεθλον,
1280 νηὸς ἀποπροθορῶν: ἄμυδις δ' ἔλε παμφανώσαν
χαλκείην πῆληκα θοῶν ἔμπλειον ὁδόντων
καὶ ξίφος ἄμφ' ὤμοις, γυμνὸς δέμας, ἄλλα μὲν Ἄρει
εἵκελος, ἄλλα δέ που χρυσαόρῳ Ἀπόλλωνι.
παπτήνας δ' ἀνὰ νειὸν ἶδε ζυγὰ χάλκεα ταύρων
1285 αὐτόγυόν τ' ἐπὶ τοῖς στιβαροῦ ἀδάμαντος ἄροτρον.
χρίμψε δ' ἔπειτα κιών, παρὰ δ' ὄβριμον ἔγχος ἔπληξε
ὀρθὸν ἐπ' οὐριάχῳ, κύνειν δ' ἀποκάτθετ' ἐρείσας.
βῆ δ' αὐτῇ προτέρωσε σὺν ἀσπίδι νήριτα ταύρων
ἵχνια μαστεύων: οἱ δ' ἔκποθεν ἀφράστοιο
1290 κευθμῶνος χθονίου, ἵνα τέ σφισιν ἔσκε βόαυλα
καρτερὰ λιγνύοντι πέριξ εἰλυμένα καπνῷ,
ἄμφω ὁμοῦ προγένοντο πυρὸς σέλας ἀμπνεῖοντες.
ἔδδειςαν δ' ἥρωες, ὅπως ἴδον. αὐτὰρ ὁ τούσγε,
εὖ διαβάς, ἐπιόντας, ἃ τε σπιλὰς εἰν ἀλὶ πέτρῃ
1295 μίμνει ἀπειρεσίησι δονεῦμενα κύματ' ἀέλλαις.
πρόσθε δέ οἱ σάκος ἔσχεν ἐναντίον: οἱ δέ μιν ἄμφω
μυκηθμῷ κρατεροῖσιν ἐνέπληξαν κεράεσσιν:
οὐδ' ἄρα μιν τυτθὸν περ ἀνώχλισαν ἀντιόωντες.
ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἐνὶ τρητοῖσιν ἐύρρινοι χοάνοισιν
1300 φῦσαι χαλκῆων ὅτε μὲν τ' ἀναμαρμαίρουσιν,
πῦρ ὀλοὸν πιμπᾶσαι, ὅτ' αὖ λήγουσιν αὐτμῆς,

δεινὸς δ' ἐξ αὐτοῦ πέλεται βρόμος, ὅππότε' αἶψη
 νειόθεν: ὧς ἄρα τώγε θοὴν φλόγα φυσιόωντες
 ἐκ στομάτων ὁμάδευν, τὸν δ' ἄμφεπε δῆιον αἶθος
 1305 βάλλον ἅ τε στεροπή: κούρης δέ ἐ φάρμακ' ἔρυτο.
 καὶ ῥ' ὄγε δεξιτεροῖο βοὸς κέρας ἄκρον ἐρύσσας
 εἵλκεν ἐπικρατέως παντὶ σθένει, ὄφρα πελάσση
 ζεύγλη χαλκείη, τὸν δ' ἐν χθονὶ κάββαλεν ὀκλάξ,
 ῥίμφα ποδὶ κρούσας πόδα χάλκεον. ὧς δὲ καὶ ἄλλον
 1310 σφῆλιν γνυῖ ἐπιόντα, μὴ βεβολημένον ὀρμῇ.
 εὐρὺ δ' ἀποπροβαλὼν χαμάδις σάκος, ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα
 τῇ καὶ τῇ βεβαῶς ἄμφω ἔχε πεπτηῶτας
 γούνασιν ἐν προτέροισι, διὰ φλογὸς εἴθαρ ἔλυσθεις.
 θαύμασε δ' Αἰήτης σθένος ἀνέρος. οἱ δ' ἄρα τείως
 1315 Τυνδαρίδαι — δὴ γάρ σφι πάλοι προπεφραδμένον ἦεν —
 ἀγχίμολον ζυγά οἱ πεδόθεν δόσαν ἀμφιβαλέσθαι.
 αὐτὰρ ὁ εὖ ἐνέδησε λόφους: μεσσηγὺ δ' αἰείρας
 χάλκεον ἱστοβοῖα, θοῇ συνάρασσε κορώνη
 ζεύγληθεν. καὶ τὼ μὲν ὑπὲκ πυρὸς ἄψ ἐπὶ νῆα
 1320 χαζέσθην. ὁ δ' ἄρ' αὖτις ἐλὼν σάκος ἔνθετο νώτω
 ἐξόπιθεν, καὶ γέντο θοῶν ἔμπλειον ὀδόντων
 πήληκα βριαρὴν δόρυ τ' ἄσχετον, ᾧ π' ὑπὸ μέσσας
 ἐργατίνης ὧς τίς τε Πελασγίδι νύσσειν ἀκαΐνῃ
 οὐτάζων λαγόνας: μάλα δ' ἔμπεδον εὖ ἀραρυῖαν
 1325 τυκτὴν ἐξ ἀδάμαντος ἐπιθύνεσκεν ἐχέτλην.

[1278] Now Aeson's son, as soon as his comrades had made the hawsers fast, leapt from the ship, and with spear and shield came forth to the contest; and at the same time he took the gleaming helmet of bronze filled with sharp teeth, and his sword girt round his shoulders, his body stripped, in somewise resembling Ares and in somewise Apollo of the golden sword. And gazing over the field he saw the bulls' yoke of bronze and near it the plough, all of one piece, of stubborn adamant. Then he came near, and fixed his sturdy spear upright on its butt, and taking his helmet, off leant it against the spear. And he went forward with shield alone to examine the countless tracks of the bulls, and they from some unseen lair beneath the earth, where was their strong steading, wrapt in murky smoke, both rushed out together, breathing forth flaming fire. And sore afraid were the heroes at the sight. But Jason, setting wide his feet, withstood their onset, as in the sea a rocky reef withstands the waves tossed by the countless blasts. Then in front of him he held his shield; and both the bulls with loud bellowing attacked him with their mighty horns; nor did they stir him a jot by their onset. And as when through the holes of the furnace the armourers' bellows anon gleam brightly, kindling the ravening flame, and anon cease from blowing, and a terrible roar rises from the fire when it darts up from below; so the bulls roared, breathing forth swift flame from their mouths, while the consuming heat played round him, smiting like

lightning; but the maiden's charms protected him. Then grasping the tip of the horn of the right-hand bull, he dragged it mightily with all his strength to bring it near the yoke of bronze, and forced it down on to its knees, suddenly striking with his foot the foot of bronze. So also he threw the other bull on to its knees as it rushed upon him, and smote it down with one blow. And throwing to the ground his broad shield, he held them both down where they had fallen on their fore-knees, as he strode from side to side, now here, now there, and rushed swiftly through the flame. But Aeetes marvelled at the hero's might. And meantime the sons of Tyndareus for long since had it been thus ordained for them — near at hand gave him the yoke from the ground to cast round them. Then tightly did he bind their necks; and lifting the pole of bronze between them, he fastened it to the yoke by its golden tip. So the twin heroes started back from the fire to the ship. But Jason took up again his shield and cast it on his back behind him, and grasped the strong helmet filled with sharp teeth, and his resistless spear, wherewith, like some ploughman with a Pelasgian goad, he pricked the bulls beneath, striking their flanks; and very firmly did he guide the well fitted plough handle, fashioned of adamant.

οἱ δ' εἶως μὲν δὴ περιώσια θυμαίνεσκον,
λάβρον ἐπιπνέοντε πυρὸς σέλας: ὦρτο δ' αὐτμῇ
ἤυτε βυκτᾶων ἀνέμων βρόμος, οὓς τε μάλιστα
δειδιότες μέγα λαῖφος ἀλίπλοοι ἐστείλαντο.
1330 δῆρὸν δ' οὐ μετέπειτα κελευόμενοι ὑπὸ δουρὶ
ἦσαν: ὀκρίεσσα δ' ἐρείκετο νειὸς ὀπίσσω,
σχιζομένη ταύρων τε βίη κρατερῷ τ' ἀροτῇρι.
δεινὸν δ' ἐσμαράγευν ἄμυδις κατὰ ὄλκας ἀρότρου
βάλακες ἀγνύμεναι ἀνδραχθέες: εἶπετο δ' αὐτὸς
1335 λαῖον ἐπὶ στιβαρῷ πιέσας ποδί: τῆλε δ' εὖοι
βάλλεν ἀρηρομένην αἰεὶ κατὰ βῶλον ὀδόντας
ἐντροπαλιζόμενος, μὴ οἱ πάρος ἀντιάσειεν
γηγενέων ἀνδρῶν ὀλοὸς στάχυν: οἱ δ' ἄρ' ἐπιπρὸ
χαλκείης χηλῆσιν ἐρειδόμενοι πονέοντο.

[1326] The bulls meantime raged exceedingly, breathing forth furious flame of fire; and their breath rose up like the roar of blustering winds, in fear of which above all seafaring men furl their large sail. But not long after that they moved on at the bidding of the spear; and behind them the rugged fallow was broken up, cloven by the might of the bulls and the sturdy ploughman. Then terribly groaned the clods withal along the furrows of the plough as they were rent, each a man's burden; and Jason followed, pressing down the cornfield with firm foot; and far from him he ever sowed the teeth along the clods as each was ploughed, turning his head back for fear lest the deadly crop of earthborn men should rise against him first; and the bulls toiled onwards treading with their hoofs of bronze.

1340 ἥμος δὲ τρίτατον λάχος ἥματος ἀνομένοιο
λείπεται ἐξ ἡοῦς, καλέουσι δὲ κεκμηῶτες
ἐργατῖναι γλυκερόν σφιν ἄφαρ βουλυτὸν ἰκέσθαι,
τῆμος ἀρήροτο νειὸς ὑπ' ἀκαμάτῳ ἀροτῆρι,
τετράγυός περ ἐοῦσα· βοῶν τ' ἀπελύετ' ἄροτρα.
1345 καὶ τοὺς μὲν πεδίονδε διεπτοίησε φέβεσθαι·
αὐτὰρ ὁ ἄψ ἐπὶ νῆα πάλιν κίεν, ὄφρ' ἔτι κεινὰς
γηγενέων ἀνδρῶν ἴδεν αὖλακας· ἀμφὶ δ' ἐταῖροι
θάρσυνον μύθοισιν· ὁ δ' ἐκ ποταμοῖο ροάων
αὐτῇ ἀφυσσάμενος κυνέῃ σβέσεν ὕδατι δίψαν·
1350 γνάμψε δὲ γούνατ' ἐλαφρά, μέγαν δ' ἐμπλήσατο θυμὸν
ἀλκῆς, μαιμώνων σὺν εἵκελος, ὅς ῥά τ' ὀδόντας
θήγει θηρευτῆσιν ἐπ' ἀνδράσιν, ἀμφὶ δὲ πολλὸς
ἄφρὸς ἀπὸ στόματος χαμάδις ῥεῖ χωομένοιο.
οἱ δ' ἤδη κατὰ πᾶσαν ἀνασταχύεσκον ἄρουραν
1355 γηγενέες· φρίζεν δὲ περὶ στιβαροῖς σακέεσσιν
δούρασί τ' ἀμφιγύοις κορύθεσσί τε λαμπομένησιν
Ἄρηος τέμενος φθισιμβρότου· ἵκετο δ' αἴγλη
νειόθεν Οὐλυμπόνδε δι' ἥερος ἀστράπτουσα.
ὥς δ' ὁπότε ἔς γαῖαν πολέος νιφετοῖο πεσόντος
1360 ἄψ ἀπὸ χειμερίας νεφέλας ἐκέσασσαν ἄελλαι
λυγαίῃ ὑπὸ νυκτί, τὰ δ' ἀθρόα πάντ' ἐφάνθη
τεῖρεα λαμπετόωντα διὰ κνέφας· ὥς ἄρα τοίγε
λάμπον ἀναλδήσκοντες ὑπὲρ χθονός· αὐτὰρ Ἰήσων
μνήσατο Μηδείης πολυκερδέος ἐννεσιάων,
1365 λάζετο δ' ἐκ πεδίοιο μέγαν περιηγέα πέτρον,
δεινὸν Ἐνυαλίου σόλον Ἄρεος· οὐ κέ μιν ἄνδρες
αἰζηοὶ πίσυρες γαίης ἄπο τυτθὸν ἄειραν.
τόν ῥ' ἀνὰ χεῖρα λαβὼν μάλα τηλόθεν ἔμβαλε μέσσοις
αἴζας· αὐτὸς δ' ὑφ' ἐὸν σάκος ἔζετο λάθρη
1370 θαρσαλέως· Κόλχοι δὲ μέγ' ἵαχον, ὥς ὅτε πόντος
ἵαχεν ὀξείησιν ἐπιβρομέων σπιλάδεσσιν·
τὸν δ' ἔλεν ἀμφασίῃ ῥιπῇ στιβαροῖο σόλοιο
Αἰήτην· οἱ δ' ὥστε θοοὶ κύνες ἀμφιθορόντες
ἀλλήλους βρυχηδὸν ἐδήιον· οἱ δ' ἐπὶ γαῖαν
1375 μητέρα πῖπτον ἐοῖς ὑπὸ δούρασιν, ἥτε πευκά
ἦ δρύες, ἅς τ' ἀνέμοιο κατάικες δονέουσιν.
οἷος δ' οὐρανόθεν πυρόεις ἀναπάλλεται ἀστήρ
ὀλκὸν ὑπανγάζων, τέρας ἀνδράσιν, οἳ μιν ἴδωντο
μαρμαρυγῇ σκοτίοιο δι' ἥερος αἴξαντα·
1380 τοῖος ἄρ' Αἴσονος υἱὸς ἐπέσσυτο γηγενέεσσιν,
γυμνὸν δ' ἐκ κολεοῖο φέρε ξίφος, οὗτα δὲ μίγδην
ἀμώνων, πολέας μὲν ἔτ' ἐς νηδὺν λαγόνας τε
ἡμίσεας ἀνέχοντας ἐς ἥερα· τοὺς δὲ καὶ ἄχρις

ὤμων τελλομένους: τοὺς δὲ νέον ἐστηῶτας,
1385 τοὺς δ' ἤδη καὶ ποσσὶν ἐπειγομένους ἐς ἄρηα.
ὥς δ' ὅπότε ἄμφ' οὖροις ἐγειρομένου πολέμοιο,
δεῖσας γειομόρος, μή οἱ προτάμονται ἀρούρας,
ἄρπην εὐκαμπὴ νεοθηγέα χερσὶ μεμαρπῶς
ὦμόν ἐπισπεύδων κείρει στάχυν, οὐδὲ βολῇσιν
1390 μίμνει ἐς ὥραϊν τερσήμεναι ἡέλιοιο:
ὧς τότε γηγενέων κεῖρε στάχυν: αἵματι δ' ὀλκοὶ
ἦτε κρηναῖαι ἀμάραι πλήθοντο ῥοῇσιν.
πίπτον δ', οἱ μὲν ὁδᾶξ τετρηχότα βῶλον ὁδοῦσιν
λαζόμενοι πρηνεῖς, οἱ δ' ἔμπαλιν, οἱ δ' ἐπ' ἀγοστῷ
1395 καὶ πλευροῖς, κήτεσσι δομὴν ἀτάλαντοι ἰδέσθαι.
πολλοὶ δ' οὐτάμενοι, πρὶν ὑπὸ χθονὸς ἵχνος ἀεῖραι,
ὅσσον ἄνω προύτυψαν ἐς ἡέρα, τόσσον ἔραζε
βριθόμενοι πλαδαροῖσι καρήασιν ἠρήρειντο.
ἔρνεά που τοίως, Διὸς ἄσπετον ὀμβρήσαντος,
1400 φυταλιῇ νεόθρεπτα κατημύουσιν ἔραζε
κλασθέντα ρίζηθεν, ἀλωήων πόνος ἀνδρῶν:
τὸν δὲ κατηφείη τε καὶ οὐλοὸν ἄλγος ἰκάνει
κλήρου σημαντῆρα φυτοτρόφον: ὧς τότε ἄνακτος
Αἰήταο βαρεῖαι ὑπὸ φρένας ἦλθον ἀνῖαι.
1405 ἦε δ' ἐς πτολίεθρον ὑπότροπος ἄμμιγα Κόλχοις,
πορφύρων, ἧ κέ σφι θοώτερον ἀντιόωτο.
ἦμαρ ἔδου, καὶ τῷ τετελεσμένος ἦεν ἄεθλος.

[1340] But when the third part of the day was still left as it wanes from dawn, and wearied labourers call for the sweet hour of unyoking to come to them straightway, then the fallow was ploughed by the tireless ploughman, four plough-gates though it was; and he loosed the plough from the oxen. Then he scared in flight towards the plain; but he went back again to the ship, while he still saw the furrows free of the earthborn men. And all round his comrades heartened him with their shouts. And in the helmet he drew from the river's stream and quenched his thirst with the water. Then he bent his knees till they grew supple, and filled his mighty heart with courage, raging like a boar, when it sharpens its teeth against the hunters, while from its wrathful mouth plenteous foam drips to the ground. By now the earthborn men were springing up over all the field; and the plot of Ares, the death-dealer, bristled with sturdy shields and double-pointed spears and shining helmets; and the gleam reached Olympus from beneath, flashing through the air. And as when abundant snow has fallen on the earth and the storm blasts have dispersed the wintry clouds under the murky night, and all the hosts of the stars appear shining through the gloom; so did those warriors shine springing up above the earth. But Jason bethought him of the counsels of Medea full of craft, and seized from the plain a huge round boulder, a terrible quoit of Ares Enyalios; four stalwart youths could not have raised it from the ground even a little. Taking it in his

hands he threw it with a rush far away into their midst; and himself crouched unseen behind his shield, with full confidence. And the Colchians gave a loud cry, like the roar of the sea when it beats upon sharp crags; and speechless amazement seized Aeetes at the rush of the sturdy quoit. And the Earthborn, like fleet-footed hounds, leaped upon one another and slew with loud yells; and on earth their mother they fell beneath their own spears, like pines or oaks, which storms of wind beat down. And even as a fiery star leaps from heaven, trailing a furrow of light, a portent to men, whoever see it darting with a gleam through the dusky sky; in such wise did Aeson's son rush upon the earthborn men, and he drew from the sheath his bare sword, and smote here and there, mowing them down, many on the belly and side, half risen to the air — and some that had risen as far as the shoulders — and some just standing upright, and others even now rushing to battle. And as when a fight is stirred up concerning boundaries, and a husbandman, in fear lest they should ravage his fields, seizes in his hand a curved sickle, newly sharpened, and hastily cuts the unripe crop, and waits not for it to be parched in due season by the beams of the sun; so at that time did Jason cut down the crop of the Earthborn; and the furrows were filled with blood, as the channels of a spring with water. And they fell, some on their faces biting the rough clod of earth with their teeth, some on their backs, and others on their hands and sides, like to sea-monsters to behold. And many, smitten before raising their feet from the earth, bowed down as far to the ground as they had risen to the air, and rested there with the damp of death on their brows. Even so, I ween, when Zeus has sent a measureless rain, new planted orchard-shoots droop to the ground, cut off by the root the toil of gardening men; but heaviness of heart and deadly anguish come to the owner of the farm, who planted them; so at that time did bitter grief come upon the heart of King Aeetes. And he went back to the city among the Colchians, pondering how he might most quickly oppose the heroes. And the day died, and Jason's contest was ended.

BOOK IV.

αὐτὴ νῦν κάματόν γε, θεά, καὶ δήνεα κούρης
Κολχίδος ἔννεπε, Μοῦσα, Διὸς τέκος. ἧ γὰρ ἔμοιγε
ἀμφοσὶ νός ἐνδον ἐλίσσεται ὀρμαίνοντι,
ἧ ἔμεν ἄτης πῆμα δυσίμερον, ἧ τόγ' ἐνίσπω
5 φύζαν ἀεικελίην, ἧ κάλλιπεν ἔθνεα Κόλχων.

[1] Now do thou thyself, goddess Muse, daughter of Zeus, tell of the labour and wiles of the Colchian maiden. Surely my soul within me wavers with speechless amazement as I ponder whether I should call it the lovesick grief of mad passion or a panic flight, through which she left the Colchian folk.

ἦτοι ὁ μὲν δῆμοιο μετ' ἀνδράσιν, ὅσσοι ἄριστοι,
παννύχιος δόλον αἰπὺν ἐπὶ σφίσι μητιάσκειν
οἴσιν ἐνὶ μεγάροις, στυγερῶ ἐπὶ θυμὸν ἀέθλω
Αἰήτης ἄμοτον κεχολωμένος· οὐδ' ὄγε πάμπαν
10 θυγατέρων τάδε νόσφιν ἔων τελέεσθαι ἐώλπει.

[6] Aeetes all night long with the bravest captains of his people was devising in his halls sheer treachery against the heroes, with fierce wrath in his heart at the issue of the hateful contest; nor did he deem at all that these things were being accomplished without the knowledge of his daughters.

τῇ δ' ἄλεγεινότατον κραδίη φόβον ἔμβαλεν Ἥρη:
τρέσσεν δ', ἥύτε τις κούφη κεμάς, ἦν τε βαθείης
τάρφεσιν ἐν ξυλόχοιο κυνῶν ἐφόβησεν ὁμοκλή.
αὐτίκα γὰρ νημερτὲς οἴσσατο, μὴ μιν ἀρωγῇ
15 ληθέμεν, αἶψα δὲ πᾶσαν ἀναπλήσειν κακότητα.
τάρβει δ' ἀμφιπόλους ἐπίστορας· ἐν δέ οἱ ὅσσε
πλῆτο πυρός, δεινὸν δὲ περιβρομέεσκον ἀκουαί.
πυκνὰ δὲ λευκανίης ἐπεμάσσατο, πυκνὰ δὲ κουριζ
ἐλκομένη πλοκάμους γοερῇ βρυχήσατ' ἀνίη.
20 καὶ νύ κεν αὐτοῦ τῆμος ὑπὲρ μόρον ὄλετο κούρη,
φάρμακα πασσαμένη, Ἥρης δ' ἀλίωσε μενοινάς,
εἰ μὴ μιν Φρίξιοι θεᾶ σὺν παισὶ φέβεσθαι
ᾔρσεν ἀτυζομένην· πτερόεις δὲ οἱ ἐν φρεσὶ θυμὸς
ϊάνθη· μετὰ δ' ἦγε παλίσσυτος ἀθρόα κόλπων
25 φάρμακα πάντ' ἄμυδις κατεχεύατο φοριαμοῖο.
κύσσε δ' ἐόν τε λέχος καὶ δικλίδας ἀμφοτέρωθεν
σταθμούς, καὶ τοίχων ἐπαφήσατο, χερσὶ τε μακρὸν
ῥῆξαμένη πλόκαμον, θαλάμῳ μνημήϊα μητρὶ
κάλλιπε παρθενίης, ἀδινῇ δ' ὀλοφύρατο φωνῇ:
30 'τόνδε τοι ἀντ' ἐμέθεν ταναὸν πλόκον εἴμι λιποῦσα,
μῆτερ ἐμή· χαίροις δὲ καὶ ἄνδιχα πολλὸν ἰούση:

χαίροις Χαλκίῳ, καὶ πᾶς δόμος. αἶθε σε πόντος,
ξεῖνε, διέρραισεν, πρὶν Κολχίδα γαῖαν ἰκέσθαι.’

[11] But into Medea’s heart Hera cast most grievous fear; and she trembled like a nimble fawn whom the baying of hounds hath terrified amid the thicket of a deep copse. For at once she truly forboded that the aid she had given was not hidden from her father, and that quickly she would fill up the cup of woe. And she dreaded the guilty knowledge of her handmaids; her eyes were filled with fire and her ears rung with a terrible cry. Often did she clutch at her throat, and often did she drag out her hair by the roots and groan in wretched despair. There on that very day the maiden would have tasted the drugs and perished and so have made void the purposes of Hera, had not the goddess driven her, all bewildered, to flee with the sons of Phrixus; and her fluttering soul within her was comforted; and then she poured from her bosom all the drugs back again into the casket. Then she kissed her bed, and the folding-doors on both sides, and stroked the walls, and tearing away in her hands a long tress of hair, she left it in the chamber for her mother, a memorial of her maidenhood, and thus lamented with passionate voice: “I go, leaving this long tress here in my stead, O mother mine; take this farewell from me as I go far hence; farewell Chalciope, and all my home. Would that the sea, stranger, had dashed thee to pieces, ere thou camest to the Colchian land!”

ὥς ἄρ’ ἔφη: βλεφάρων δὲ κατ’ ἀθρόα δάκρυα χεῖνεν.

35 οἷη δ’ ἀφνειοῖο διειλυσθεῖσα δόμοιο
ληιάς, ἦν τε νέον πάτρης ἀπενόσφισεν αἴσα,
οὐδέ νύ πω μογεροῖο πεπεύρηται καμάτοιο,
ἀλλ’ ἔτ’ ἀηθέσσουσα δύης καὶ δούλια ἔργα
εἴσιν ἀτυζομένη χαλεπὰς ὑπὸ χειρᾶς ἀνάσσης:
40 τοίη ἄρ’ ἱμερόεσσα δόμων ἐξέσσυτο κούρη.
τῇ δὲ καὶ αὐτόματοι θυρέων ἰπόμεξαν ὀχῆες,
ὠκείαις ἄγορροι ἀναθρόσκοντες ἀοιδαῖς.
γυμνοῖσιν δὲ πόδεσσιν ἀνὰ στεινὰς θέεν οἴμους,
λαιῇ μὲν χερὶ πέπλον ἐπ’ ὀφρύσιν ἀμφὶ μέτωπα
45 στείλαμένη καὶ καλὰ παρήια, δεξιτερῇ δὲ
ἄκρην ὑψόθι πέζαν ἀεργάζουσα χιτῶνος.
καρπαλίμως δ’ αἰδήλον ἀνὰ στίβον ἔκτοθι πύργων
ἄστεος εὐρυχόροιο φόβῳ ἵκετ’: οὐδέ τις ἔγνω
τήνγε φυλακτῆρων, λάθε δέ σφεας ὀρμηθεῖσα.
50 ἔνθεν ἵμεν νηόνδε μάλ’ ἐφράσατ’: οὐ γὰρ αἰδρις
ἦεν ὁδῶν, θαμὰ καὶ πρὶν ἀλωμένη ἀμφὶ τε νεκρούς,
ἀμφὶ τε δυσπαλέας ρίζας χθονός, οἷα γυναῖκες
φαρμακίδες: τρομερῶ δ’ ὑπὸ δείματι πάλλετο θυμός.
τὴν δὲ νέον Τιτηνὶς ἀνερχομένη περάτηθεν

[34] Thus she spake, and from her eyes shed copious tears. And as a bondmaid

steals away from a wealthy house, whom fate has lately severed from her native land, nor yet has she made trial of grievous toil, but still unschooled to misery and shrinking in terror from slavish tasks, goes about beneath the cruel hands of a mistress; even so the lovely maiden rushed forth from her home. But to her the bolts of the doors gave way self-moved, leaping backwards at the swift strains of her magic song. And with bare feet she sped along the narrow paths, with her left hand holding her robe over her brow to veil her face and fair cheeks, and with her right lifting up the hem of her tunic. Quickly along the dark track, outside the towers of the spacious city, did she come in fear; nor did any of the warders note her, but she sped on unseen by them. Thence she was minded to go to the temple; for well she knew the way, having often aforetime wandered there in quest of corpses and noxious roots of the earth, as a sorceress is wont to do; and her soul fluttered with quivering fear.

55 φοιταλέην ἐσιδοῦσα θεὰ ἐπεχίρατο Μῆνη
ἀρπαλέως, καὶ τοῖα μετὰ φρεσὶν ἦσιν ἔειπεν:
‘οὐκ ἄρ’ ἐγὼ μούνη μετὰ Λάτμιον ἄντρον ἀλύσκω,
οὐδ’ οἷη καλῶ περιδαίομαι Ἐνδυμίωνι.
ἦ θαμὰ δὴ καὶ σεῖο κίον δολίῃσιν ἀοιδαῖς,
60 μνησαμένη φιλότητος, ἵνα σκοτίῃ ἐνὶ νυκτὶ
φαρμάσσης εὖκηλος, ἃ τοι φίλα ἔργα τέτυκται.
νῦν δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ δῆθεν ὁμοίης ἔμμορες ἄτης:
δῶκε δ’ ἀνιηρόν τοι Ἰήσωνα πῆμα γενέσθαι
δαίμων ἀλγινόεις. ἀλλ’ ἔρχεο, τέτλαθι δ’ ἔμπης,
65 καὶ πινυτὴ περ ἐοῦσα, πολύστονον ἄλγος ἀεῖρειν.’
ὧς ἄρ’ ἔφη: τὴν δ’ αἴψα πόδες φέρον ἐγκονέουσαν.
ἀσπασίως δ’ ὄχθησιν ἐπήερθη ποταμοῖο,
ἀντιπέρην λεύσσουσα πυρὸς σέλας, ὃ ρά τ’ ἀέθλου

[55] And the Titanian goddess, the moon, rising from a far land, beheld her as she fled distraught, and fiercely exulted over her, and thus spake to her own heart: “Not I alone then stray to the Latinian cave, nor do I alone burn with love for fair Endymion; oft times with thoughts of love have I been driven away by thy crafty spells, in order that in the darkness of night thou mightest work thy sorcery at ease, even the deeds dear to thee. And now thou thyself too hast part in a like mad passion; and some god of affection has given thee Jason to be thy grievous woe. Well, go on, and steel thy heart, wise though thou be, to take up thy burden of pain, fraught with many sighs.”

παννύχιοι ἥρωες ἐυφροσύνησιν ἔδαιον.
70 ὁξεῖη δὴπείτα διὰ κνέφας ὄρθια φωνῇ
ὀπλότατον Φρίξοιο περαιόθεν ἦπνε παίδων,
φρόντιν: ὁ δὲ ξὺν ἐοῖσι κασιγνήτοις ὅπα κούρης
αὐτῷ τ’ Αἰσονίδῃ τεκμήρατο: σῖγα δ’ ἐταῖροι

θάμβεον, εὖτ' ἐνόησαν ὃ δὴ καὶ ἐτήτυμον ἦεν.
 75 τρὶς μὲν ἀνήυσεν, τρὶς δ' ὀτρύνοντος ὀμίλου
 Φρόντις ἀμοιβήδην ἀντίαχεν· οἱ δ' ἄρα τείως
 ἦρωες μετὰ τήνγε θοοῖς ἐλάσκον ἐρετμοῖς.
 οὐπω πείσματα νηὸς ἐπ' ἠπειροῖο περαίης
 βάλλον, ὃ δὲ κραιπνοὺς χέρσῳ πόδας ἦκεν Ἴησων
 80 ὑποῦ ἀπ' ἰκριόφιν· μετὰ δὲ Φρόντις τε καὶ Ἄργος,
 υἱὲ δύω Φριξοῦ, χαμάδις θόρον· ἡ δ' ἄρα τούσγε
 γούνων ἀμφοτέρησι περισχομένη προσέειπεν·
 'ἔκ με, φίλοι, ρύσασθε δυσάμμορον, ὧς δὲ καὶ αὐτοὺς
 ὑμέας Αἰήταο, πρὸ γάρ τ' ἀναφανδὰ τέτυκται
 85 πάντα μάλ', οὐδέ τι μῆχος ἰκάνεται. ἀλλ' ἐπὶ νηὶ
 φεύγωμεν, πρὶν τόνδε θοῶν ἐπιβήμεναι ἵππων.
 δώσω δὲ χρύσειον ἐγὼ δέρος, εὐνήσασα
 φρουρὸν ὄφιν· τύνη δὲ θεοὺς ἐνὶ σοῖσιν ἐταίροις,
 ξεῖνε, τεῶν μύθων ἐπίστορας, οὓς μοι ὑπέστης,
 90 ποίησαι· μὴδ' ἔνθεν ἐκαστέρῳ ὀρμηθεῖσαν
 χήτει κηδεμόνων ὀνοτὴν καὶ ἀεικέα θείης.'

[66] Thus spake the goddess; but swiftly the maiden's feet bore her, hasting on. And gladly did she gain the high-bank of the river and beheld on the opposite side the gleam of fire, which all night long the heroes were kindling in joy at the contest's issue. Then through the gloom, with clear-pealing voice from across the stream, she called on Phrontis, the youngest of Phrixus' sons, and he with his brothers and Aeson's son recognised the maiden's voice; and in silence his comrades wondered when they knew that it was so in truth. Thrice she called, and thrice at the bidding of the company Phrontis called out in reply; and meantime the heroes were rowing with swift-moving oars in search of her. Not yet were they casting the ship's hawsers upon the opposite bank, when Jason with light feet leapt to land from the deck above, and after him Phrontis and Argus, sons of Phrixus, leapt to the ground; and she, clasping their knees with both hands, thus addressed them: "Save me, the hapless one, my friends, from Aeetes, and yourselves too, for all is brought to light, nor doth any remedy come. But let us flee upon the ship, before the king mounts his swift chariot. And I will lull to sleep the guardian serpent and give you the fleece of gold; but do thou, stranger, amid thy comrades make the gods witness of the vows thou hast taken on thyself for my sake; and now that I have fled far from my country, make me not a mark for blame and dishonour for want of kinsmen."

Ἰσκεν ἀκηχεμένη· μέγα δὲ φρένες Αἰσονίδαο
 γήθεον· αἶψα δέ μιν περὶ γούνασι πεπητυῖαν
 ἦκ' ἀναειρόμενος προσπτύξατο, θάρσυνέν τε·
 95 'δαιμονίη, Ζεὺς αὐτὸς Ὀλύμπιος ὄρκιος ἔστω,
 "Ἦρη τε Ζυγίη, Διὸς εὐνέτις, ἣ μὲν ἐμοῖσιν

κουριδίην σε δόμοισιν ἐνιστήσεσθαι ἄκοιτιν,
εὗτ' ἂν ἐς Ἑλλάδα γαῖαν ἰκώμεθα νοστήσαντες·

[92] She spake in anguish; but greatly did the heart of Aeson's son rejoice, and at once, as she fell at his knees, he raised her gently and embraced her, and spake words of comfort: "Lady, let Zeus of Olympus himself be witness to my oath, and Hera, queen of marriage, bride of Zeus, that I will set thee in my halls my own wedded wife, when we have reached the land of Hellas on our return."

ὥς ηὔδα, καὶ χεῖρα παρασχεδὼν ἥραρε χειρὶ
100 δεξιτερήν· ἡ δὲ σφιν ἐς ἱερὸν ἄλσος ἀνώγει
νῆα θοὴν ἐλάαν αὐτοσχεδὼν, ὄφρ' ἔτι νύκτωρ
κῶας ἐλόντες ἄγοιντο παρὲκ νόον Αἰήταο.
ἐνθ' ἔπος ἡδὲ καὶ ἔργον ὁμοῦ πέλεν ἐσσυμένοισιν.
εἰς γάρ μιν βῆσαντες, ἀπὸ χθονὸς αὐτίκ' ἔωσαν
105 νῆα· πολλὸς δ' ὀρυμαγδὸς ἐπειγομένων ἐλάττησιν
ἦεν ἀριστήων· ἡ δ' ἔμπαλιν αἰσσοῦσα
γαίῃ χεῖρας ἔτεινεν ἀμήχανος. αὐτὰρ Ἰήσων
θάρσυνέν τ' ἐπέεσσι, καὶ ἴσχανεν ἀσχαλόωσαν.

[99] Thus he spake, and straightway clasped her right hand in his; and she bade them row the swift ship to the sacred grove near at hand, in order that, while it was still night, they might seize and carry off the fleece against the will of Aeetes. Word and deed were one to the eager crew. For they took her on board, and straightway thrust the ship from shore; and loud was the din as the chieftains strained at their oars, but she, starting back, held out her hands in despair towards the shore. But Jason spoke cheering words and restrained her grief.

ἦμος δ' ἀνέρες ὕπνον ἀπ' ὀφθαλμῶν ἐβάλοντο
110 ἀγρόται, οἳ τε κύνεσσι πεποιθότες οὔποτε νύκτα
ἄγχαυρον κνώσσουσιν, ἀλευάμενοι φάος ἡοῦς,
μὴ πρὶν ἀμαλδύνη θηρῶν στίβον ἡδὲ καὶ ὁδμήν
θηρεῖν λευκῆσιν ἐνισκίμψασα βολῆσιν·
τῆμος ἄρ' Αἰσονίδης κούρη τ' ἀπὸ νηὸς ἔβησαν
115 ποιήεντ' ἀνὰ χώρον, ἵνα κριοῦ καλέονται
εὐναί, ὅθι πρῶτον κεκμηότα γούνατ' ἔκαμψεν,
νώτοισιν φορέων Μινυήιον υἱ' Ἀθάμαντος.
ἐγγύθι δ' αἰθαλόεντα πέλεν βωμοῖο θέμεθλα,
ὄν ρά ποτ' Αἰολίδης Διὶ Φυξίῳ εἶσατο Φρίξος,
120 ῥέζων κεῖνο τέρας παγχρύσειον, ὥς οἱ ἔειπεν
Ἑρμείας πρόφρων ξυμβλήμενος. ἐνθ' ἄρα τούσγε
Ἄργου φραδμοσύνησιν ἀριστῆες μεθέηκαν.

[109] Now at the hour when men have cast sleep from their eyes~huntsmen,

who, trusting to their bounds, never slumber away the end of night, but avoid the light of dawn lest, smiting with its white beams, it efface the track and scent of the quarry — then did Aeson's son and the maiden step forth from the ship over a grassy spot, the "Ram's couch" as men call it, where it first bent its wearied knees in rest, bearing on its back the Minyan son of Athamas. And close by, all smirched with soot, was the base of the altar, which the Aeolid Phrixus once set up to Zeus, the alder of fugitives, when he sacrificed the golden wonder at the bidding of Hermes who graciously met him on the way. There by the counsels of Argus the chieftains put them ashore.

τὸ δὲ δι' ἀτραπιτοῖο μεθ' ἱερὸν ἄλσος ἵκοντο,
φηγὸν ἀπειρεσίην διζημένω, ἧ ἔπι κῶας
125 βέβλητο, νεφέλῃ ἐναλίγκιον, ἧ τ' ἀνιόντος
ἡελίου φλογερῇσιν ἐρεύθεται ἀκτίνεσσιν.
αὐτὰρ ὁ ἀντικρὺ περιμήκεα τείνεται δειρὴν
ὀξὺς ἀύπνοισιν προῖδὼν ὄφιν ὀφθαλμοῖσιν
νισσομένους, ροῖζει δὲ πελώριον· ἀμφὶ δὲ μακραι
130 ἠιόνες ποταμοῖο καὶ ἄσπετον ἴαχεν ἄλσος.
ἔκλυον οἱ καὶ πολλὸν ἐκὰς Τιτηνίδος Αἴης
Κολχίδα γῆν ἐνέμοντο παρὰ προχοῇσι Αὐκοιο,
ὃς τ' ἀποκιδνάμενος ποταμοῦ κελάδοντος Ἀράξεω
Φάσιδι συμφέρεται ἱερὸν ῥόον· οἱ δὲ συνάμφω
135 Καυκασίην ἄλαδ' εἰς ἐν ἐλαυνόμενοι προχέουσιν.
δείματι δ' ἐξέγροντο λεχνοῖδες, ἀμφὶ δὲ παισὶν
νηπιάχοις, οἳ τέ σφιν ὑπ' ἀγκαλίδεσσιν ἵανον,
ροῖζω παλλομένοις χεῖρας βάλλον ἀσχαλόωσαι.
ὥς δ' ὅτε τυφομένης ὕλης ὕπερ αἰθαλόεσσαι
140 καπνοῖο στροφάλιγγες ἀπείριτοι εἰλίσσονται,
ἄλλῃ δ' αἴψ' ἑτέρῃ ἐπιτέλλεται αἰὲν ἐπιπρὸ
νειόθεν εἰλίγγοισιν ἐπήγορος ἐξανιούσα·
ὧς τότε κεῖνο πέλωρον ἀπειρεσίας ἐλέλιξεν
ῥυμβόνας ἀζαλέησιν ἐπηρεφῆας φολίδεσσιν.
145 τοῖο δ' ἐλίσσομένοιο κατ' ὄμματα νίσσετο κούρη,
ὕπνον ἁοσσητῆρα, θεῶν ὕπατον, καλέουσα
ἠδείῃ ἐνοπῇ, θέλξει τέρας· αὐτὲ δ' ἄνασσαν
νυκτιπόλον, χθονίην, εὐαντέα δοῦναι ἐφορμήν.
εἶπετο δ' Αἰσονίδης πεφοβημένος, αὐτὰρ ὄγ' ἤδη
150 οἴμῃ θελγόμενος δολιχὴν ἀνελύετ' ἄκανθαν
γηγενέος σπείρης, μήκυνε δὲ μυρία κύκλα,
οἷον ὅτε βληχροῖσι κυλινδόμενον πελάγεσσιν
κῦμα μέλαν κωφόν τε καὶ ἄβρομον· ἀλλὰ καὶ ἔμπης
ὑποῦ σμερδαλέην κεφαλὴν μενέαινεν αἰείρας
155 ἀμφοτέρους ὀλοῇσι περιπτύξαι γενύεσσιν.
ἧ δέ μιν ἀρκεῦθοιο νέον τετμηότι θαλλῷ
βάπτουσ' ἐκ κυκεῶνος ἀκήρατα φάρμακ' αἰοδαῖς

ῥαῖνε κατ' ὀφθαλμῶν· περί τ' ἀμφί τε νήριτος ὁδμὴ
φαρμάκου ὕπνον ἔβαλλε· γένυν δ' αὐτῇ ἐνὶ χώρῃ
160 θῆκεν ἔρεισάμενος· τὰ δ' ἀπείρονα πολλὸν ὀπίσσω
κύκλα πολυπρέμνοιο δι᾽ ὕλης τετάνυστο.

[123] And they two by the pathway came to the sacred grove, seeking the huge oak tree on which was hung the fleece, like to a cloud that blushes red with the fiery beams of the rising sun. But right in front the serpent with his keen sleepless eyes saw them coming, and stretched out his long neck and hissed in awful wise; and all round the long banks of the river echoed and the boundless grove. Those heard it who dwelt in the Colchian land very far from Titanian Aea, near the outfall of Lycus, the river which parts from loud-roaring Araxes and blends his sacred stream with Phasis, and they twain flow on together in one and pour their waters into the Caucasian Sea. And through fear young mothers awoke, and round their new-born babes, who were sleeping in their arms, threw their hands in agony, for the small limbs started at that hiss. And as when above a pile of smouldering wood countless eddies of smoke roll up mingled with soot, and one ever springs up quickly after another, rising aloft from beneath in wavering wreaths; so at that time did that monster roll his countless coils covered with hard dry scales. And as he writhed, the maiden came before his eyes, with sweet voice calling to her aid sleep, highest of gods, to charm the monster; and she cried to the queen of the underworld, the night-wanderer, to be propitious to her enterprise. And Aeson's son followed in fear, but the serpent, already charmed by her song, was relaxing the long ridge of his giant spine, and lengthening out his myriad coils, like a dark wave, dumb and noiseless, rolling over a sluggish sea; but still he raised aloft his grisly head, eager to enclose them both in his murderous jaws. But she with a newly cut spray of juniper, dipping and drawing untempered charms from her mystic brew, sprinkled his eyes, while she chanted her song; and all around the potent scent of the charm cast sleep; and on the very spot he let his jaw sink down; and far behind through the wood with its many trees were those countless coils stretched out.

ἔνθα δ' ὁ μὲν χρύσειον ἀπὸ δρυὸς αἴνυτο κῶας,
κούρης κεκλομένης· ἣ δ' ἔμπεδον ἐστηῦα
φαρμάκῳ ἔψηγεν θηρὸς κάρη, εἰσόκε δὴ μιν
165 αὐτὸς ἐῖν ἐπὶ νῆα παλιντροπᾶσθαι Ἴησων
ἦνωγεν, λεῖπεν δὲ πολύσκιον ἄλσος Ἄρηος.
ὥς δὲ σεληναῖην διχομήνιδα παρθένος αἰγλην
ὑπόθεν ἐξανέχουσιν ὑπωροφίου θαλάμοιο
λεπταλέῳ ἐάνῳ ὑποῖσχεται· ἐν δὲ οἱ ἦτορ
170 χαίρει δερκομένης καλὸν σέλας· ὧς τότε Ἴησων
γηθόσυνος μέγα κῶας ἑαῖς ἐναεῖρατο χερσίν·
καὶ οἱ ἐπὶ ξανθῇσι παρησίῃν ἠδὲ μετώπῳ
μαρμαρυγῇ ληνέων φλογὶ εἵκελον ἵζεν ἔρευθος.

ὄσση δὲ ρίνος βοὸς ἦνιος ἢ ἐλάφοιο
175 γίγνεται, ἦν τ' ἀγρῶσται ἀχαινέην καλέουσιν,
τόσσον ἔην πάντη χρύσειον ἐφύπερθεν ἄωτον.
βεβρίθει λήνεσσιν ἐπηρεφές: ἦλιθα δὲ χθὼν
αἰὲν ὑποπρὸ ποδῶν ἀμαρύσσετο νισσομένοιο.
ἦιε δ' ἄλλοτε μὲν λαιῶ ἐπιειμένος ὦμῳ
180 αὐχένος ἐξ ὑπάτοιο ποδηνεκές, ἄλλοτε δ' αὐτε
εἴλει ἀφασσόμενος: περὶ γὰρ δίεν, ὄφρα ἔ μή τις
ἀνδρῶν ἠὲ θεῶν νοσφίσσεται ἀντιβολήσας.

[162] Hereupon Jason snatched the golden fleece from the oak, at the maiden bidding; and she, standing firm, smeared with the charm the monster's head, till Jason himself bade her turn back towards their ship, and she left the grove of Ares, dusky with shade. And as a maiden catches on her finely wrought robe the gleam of the moon at the full, as it rises above her high-roofed chamber; and her heart rejoices as she beholds the fair ray; so at that time did Jason uplift the mighty fleece in his hands; and from the shimmering of the flocks of wool there settled on his fair cheeks and brow a red flush like a flame. And great as is the hide of a yearling ox or stag, which huntsmen call a brocket, so great in extent was the fleece all golden above. Heavy it was, thickly clustered with flocks; and as he moved along, even beneath his feet the sheen rose up from the earth. And he strode on now with the fleece covering his left shoulder from the height of his neck to his feet, and now again he gathered it up in his hands; for he feared exceedingly, lest some god or man should meet him and deprive him thereof.

Ἡὼς μὲν ῥ' ἐπὶ γαῖαν ἐκίδνατο, τοὶ δ' ἐς ὄμιλον
ἴζον: θάμβησαν δὲ νέοι μέγα κῶας ἰδόντες
185 λαμπόμενον στεροπῇ ἵκελον Διός. ὥρτο δ' ἕκαστος
ψαῦσαι ἐελδόμενος δέχθαι τ' ἐνὶ χερσὶν ἐῆσιν.
Αἰσονίδης δ' ἄλλους μὲν ἐρήτυε, τῷ δ' ἐπὶ φᾶρος
κάββαλε νηγάτεον: πρύμνη δ' ἐνεείσατο κούρην
ἀνθέμενος, καὶ τοῖον ἔπος μετὰ πᾶσιν ἔειπεν:
190 'μηκέτι νῦν χάζεσθε, φίλοι, πάτρηνδε νέεσθαι.
ἦδη γὰρ χρειώ, τῆς εἵνεκα τήνδ' ἀλεγεινὴν
ναυτιλίην ἔτλημεν οἰζυὶ μοχθίζοντες,
εὐπαλέως κούρης ὑπὸ δήνεσι κεκράανται.
τὴν μὲν ἐγὼν ἐθέλουσαν ἀνάξομαι οἴκαδ' ἄκοιτιν
195 κουριδίην: ἀτὰρ ὕμμες Ἀχαιίδος οἴα τε πάσης
αὐτῶν θ' ὑμείων ἐσθλὴν ἐπαρωγὸν εἰσὺσαν
σώετε. δὴ γάρ που, μάλ' ὁίομαι, εἴσιν ἐρύζων
Αἰήτης ὁμάδῳ πόντονδ' ἵμεν ἐκ ποταμοῖο.
ἀλλ' οἱ μὲν διὰ νηός, ἀμοιβαδὶς ἀνέρος ἀνήρ
200 ἐζόμενος, πηδοῖσιν ἐρέσσετε: τοὶ δὲ βοείας
ἀσπίδας ἡμίσεες, δῆων θοὸν ἔχμα βολάων,

προσχόμενοι νόστῳ ἐπαμύνετε. νῦν δ' ἐνὶ χερσὶν
παῖδας εὐὸς πάτρην τε φίλην, γεραροὺς τε τοκῆας
ἴσχομεν· ἡμετέρῃ δ' ἐπερείδεται Ἑλλάς ἐφορμῇ,
205 ἥ ἐ κατηφείην, ἥ καὶ μέγα κῶδος ἀρέσθαι.'

[183] Dawn was spreading over the earth when they reached the throng of heroes; and the youths marvelled to behold the mighty fleece, which gleamed like the lightning of Zeus. And each one started up eager to touch it and clasp it in his hands. But the son of Aeson restrained them all, and threw over it a mantle newly-woven; and he led the maiden to the stern and seated her there, and spake to them all as follows: "No longer now, my friends, forbear to return to your fatherland. For now the task for which we dared this grievous voyage, toiling with bitter sorrow of heart, has been lightly fulfilled by the maiden's counsels. Her — for such is her will — I will bring home to be my wedded wife; do ye preserve her, the glorious saviour of all Achaea and of yourselves. For of a surety, I ween, will Aeetes come with his host to bar our passage from the river into the sea. But do some of you toil at the oars in turn, sitting man by man; and half of you raise your shields of oxhide, a ready defence against the darts of the enemy, and guard our return. And now in our hands we hold the fate of our children and dear country and of our aged parents; and on our venture all Hellas depends, to reap either the shame of failure or great renown."

ὥς φάτο, δῶνε δὲ τεύχε' ἀρήια· τοὶ δ' ἰάχησαν
θεσπέσιον μεμαῶτες. ὁ δὲ ξίφος ἐκ κολεοῖο
σπασσάμενος πρυμναῖα νεῶς ἀπὸ πείσματος ἔκοπεν.
ἄγχι δὲ παρθενικῆς κεκορυθμένος ἰθυντῆρι
210 Ἀγκαῖῳ παρέβασκεν· ἐπείγετο δ' εἰρεσίῃ νηῦς
σπερχομένων ἄμοτον ποταμοῦ ἄφαρ ἐκτὸς ἐλάσσαι.

[206] Thus he spake, and donned his armour of war; and they cried aloud, wondrously eager. And he drew his sword from the sheath and cut the hawsers at the stern. And near the maiden he took his stand ready armed by the steersman Aeneas, and with their rowing the ship sped on as they strained desperately to drive her clear of the river.

ἦδη δ' Αἰήτη ὑπερήνορι πᾶσί τε Κόλχοις
Μηδείης περίπυστος ἔρωσ καὶ ἔργ' ἐτέτυκτο.
ἐς δ' ἀγορὴν ἀγέροντ' ἐνὶ τεύχεσιν· ὅσσα δὲ πόντου
215 κύματα χειμερίοιο κορύσσεται ἐξ ἀνέμοιο,
ἥ ὅσα φύλλα χαμᾶζε περικλαδέος πέσεν ὕλης
φυλλοχόῳ ἐνὶ μηνί — τίς ἂν τάδε τεκμήραιτο;
ὥς οἱ ἀπειρέσιοι ποταμοῦ παρεμέτρεον ὄχθας,
κλαγγῇ μαιμώνοντες· ὁ δ' εὐτύκτῳ ἐνὶ δίφρῳ
220 Αἰήτης ἵπποισι μετέπρεπεν, οὓς οἱ ὅπασσεν
ἥελιος πνοιῇσιν ἐειδομένους ἀνέμοιο,

σκαίῃ μὲν ῥ' ἐνὶ χειρὶ σάκος δινωτὸν αἶρων,
 τῇ δ' ἑτέρῃ πεύκην περιμήκεα: πὰρ δέ οἱ ἔγχος
 ἀντικρὺ τετάνυστο πελώριον. ἡνία δ' ἵππων
 225 γέντο χεροῖν Ἄψυρτος. υπεκπρὸ δὲ πόντον ἔταμνε
 νηῦς ἥδη κρατεροῖσιν ἐπειγομένη ἐρέτησιν,
 καὶ μεγάλου ποταμοῖο καταβλώσκοντι ῥέεθρῳ.
 αὐτὰρ ἄναξ ἄτῃ πολυπήμονι χειῖρας αἶρας
 ἡέλιον καὶ Ζῆνα κακῶν ἐπιμάρτυρας ἔργων
 230 κέκελετο: δεινὰ δὲ παντὶ παρασχεδὼν ἦπυε λαῶ
 εἰ μὴ οἱ κούρην αὐτάγρετον, ἥ ἀνὰ γαῖαν,
 ἥ πλωτῆς εὐρόντες ἔτ' εἰν ἄλods οἴδματι νῆα,
 ἄξουσιν, καὶ θυμὸν ἐνιπλήσει μενεαίνων
 τίσασθαι τάδε πάντα, δαήσονται κεφαλῇσιν
 235 πάντα χόλον καὶ πᾶσαν ἐὴν ὑποδέγμενοι ἄτην.

[212] By this time Medea's love and deeds had become known to haughty Aetes and to all the Colchians. And they thronged to the assembly in arms; and countless as the waves of the stormy sea when they rise crested by the wind, or as the leaves that fall to the ground from the wood with its myriad branches in the month when the leaves fall — who could reckon their tale? — so they in countless number poured along the banks of the river shouting in frenzy; and in his shapely chariot Aetes shone forth above all with his steeds, the gift of Helios, swift as the blasts of the wind. In his left hand he raised his curved shield, and in his right a huge pine-torch, and near him in front stood up his mighty spear. And Apsyrtus held in his hands the reins of the steeds. But already the ship was cleaving the sea before her, urged on by stalwart oarsmen, and the stream of the mighty river rushing down. But the king in grievous anguish lifted his hands and called on Helios and Zeus to bear witness to their evil deeds; and terrible threats he uttered against all his people, that unless they should with their own hands seize the maiden, either on the land or still finding the ship on the swell of the open sea, and bring her back, that so he might satisfy his eager soul with vengeance for all those deeds, at the cost of their own lives they should learn and abide all his rage and revenge.

ὧς ἔφατ' Αἰήτης: αὐτῷ δ' ἐνὶ ἥματι Κόλχοι
 νῆάς τ' εἰρύσαντο, καὶ ἄρμενα νηυσὶ βάλοντο,
 αὐτῷ δ' ἥματι πόντον ἀνήιον: οὐδέ κε φαίης
 τόσσον νηίτην στόλον ἔμμεναι, ἄλλ' οἰωνῶν
 240 ἱλαδὼν ἄσπετον ἔθνος ἐπιβρομέειν πελάγεσσιν.

[236] Thus spake Aetes; and on that same day the Colchians launched their ships and cast the tackle on board, and on that same day sailed forth on the sea; thou wouldst not say so mighty a host was a fleet of ships, but that a countless flight of birds, swarm on swarm, was clamouring over the sea.

οἱ δ' ἀνέμου λαιψηρὰ θεᾶς βουλῇσιν ἀέντος
 Ἥρης, ὄφρ' ὤκιστα κακὸν Πελῖαιο δόμοισιν
 Αἰαίῃ Μήδεῖα Πελασγίδα γαῖαν ἵκηται,
 ἥοι ἐνὶ τριτάτῃ πρυμνήσια νηὸς ἔδησαν
 245 Παφλαγόνων ἀκτῇσι, πάροιθ' Ἄλυσ ποταμοῖο.
 ἢ γάρ σφ' ἐξαποβάντας ἀρέσσασθαι θυέεσσιν
 ἠνώγει Ἑκάτην. καὶ δὴ τὰ μέν, ὅσσα θυηλὴν
 κούρη πορσανέουσα τιτύσκετο, μήτε τις ἴστωρ
 εἴη, μήτ' ἐμὲ θυμὸς ἐποτρύνειεν ἀεΐδειν.
 250 ἄζομαι αὐδοῆσαι: τό γε μὴν ἔδος ἐξέτι κείνου,
 ὃ ῥα θεᾷ ἥρωες ἐπὶ ῥηγμῖσιν ἔδειμαν,
 ἀνδράσιν ὀπιγόνοισι μένει καὶ τῆμος ἰδέσθαι.

[241] Swiftly the wind blew, as the goddess Hera planned, so that most quickly Aeaeon Medea might reach the Pelasgian land, a bane to the house of Pelias, and on the third morn they bound the ship's stern cables to the shores of the Paphlagonians, at the mouth of the river Halys. For Medea bade them land and propitiate Hecate with sacrifice. Now all that the maiden prepared for offering the sacrifice may no man know, and may my soul not urge me to sing thereof. Awe restrains my lips, yet from that time the altar which the heroes raised on the beach to the goddess remains till now, a sight to men of a later day.

αὐτίκα δ' Αἰσονίδης ἐμνήσατο, σὺν δὲ καὶ ὦλλοι
 ἥρωες, Φινῆος, ὃ δὴ πλόον ἄλλον ἔειπεν
 255 ἐξ Αἴης ἔσσεσθαι: ἀνώιστος δ' ἐτέτυκτο
 πᾶσιν ὁμῶς. Ἄργος δὲ λιλαιομένοις ἀγόρευσεν:
 'Νισσόμεθ' Ὀρχομενὸν τὴν ἔχραεν ὕμμι περῆσαι
 νημερτῆς ὁδε μάντις, ὅτῳ ξυνέβητε πάροιθεν.
 ἔστιν γὰρ πλόος ἄλλος, ὃν ἀθανάτων ἱερῆς
 260 πέφραδον, οἱ Θήβης Τριτωνίδος ἐκγεγάασιν.
 οὐπω τείρεα πάντα, τά τ' οὐρανῷ εἰλίσσονται,
 οὐδέ τί πω Δαναῶν ἱερὸν γένος ἦεν ἀκοῦσαι
 πευθομένοις: οἷοι δ' ἔσαν Ἀρκάδες Ἀπιδανῆς,
 Ἀρκάδες, οἱ καὶ πρόσθε σελιναίης ὑδέονται
 265 ζῶειν, φηγὸν ἔδοντες ἐν οὖρεσιν. οὐδὲ Πελασγίς
 χθὼν τότε κυδαλίμοισιν ἀνάσσετο Δευκαλίδῃσιν,
 ἥμος ὅτ' Ἡερίη πολυλήϊος ἐκλήϊστο,
 μήτηρ Αἴγυπτος προτερηγενέων αἰζηῶν,
 καὶ ποταμὸς Τρίτων ἠύρροος, ᾧ ὕπο πᾶσα
 270 ἄρδεται Ἡερίη: Διόθεν δέ μιν οὐποτε δεύει
 ὄμβρος: ἄλις προχοῇσι δ' ἀνασταχόουσιν ἄρουραι.
 ἐνθεν δὴ τινά φασι πέριξ διὰ πᾶσαν ὁδεῦσαι
 Εὐρώπην Ἀσίην τε βίη καὶ κάρτεϊ λαῶν
 σφωιτέρων θάρσει τε πεποιθότα: μυρία δ' ἄσθη

275 νάσσαι· ἐποιχόμενος, τὰ μὲν ἢ ποθὶ ναιετάουσιν,
 ἤε καὶ οὐ· πουλὺς γὰρ ἄδην ἐπενήνοθεν αἰών.
 αἶψα γε μὴν ἔτι νῦν μένει ἔμπεδον υἱωνοί τε
 τῶνδ' ἀνδρῶν, οὓς ὅσγε καθίσσατο ναιέμεν Αἴαν,
 οἳ δὴ τοι γραπτὺς πατέρων ἔθεν εἰρύονται,
 280 κύρβιας, οἷς ἐνὶ πᾶσαι ὁδοὶ καὶ πείρατ' ἔασιν
 ὑγρῆς τε τραφερῆς τε πέριξ ἐπινισσομένοισιν.
 ἔστι δέ τις ποταμός, ὕπατον κέρας Ὠκεανοῖο,
 εὐρύς τε προβαθὴς τε καὶ ὀλκάδι νηὶ περῆσαι:
 Ἴστρον μιν καλέοντες ἐκὰς διετεκμήραντο:
 285 ὃς δὴ τοι τείως μὲν ἀπείρονα τέμνετ' ἄρουραν
 εἷς οἶος· πηγαὶ γὰρ ὑπὲρ πνοιῆς βορέαο
 Ῥιπαίοις ἐν ὄρεσσιν ἀπόπροθι μορμύρουσιν.
 ἀλλ' ὁπότεν Ὀρηκῶν Σκυθῶν τ' ἐπιβήσεται οὖρους,
 ἔνθα διχῇ τὸ μὲν ἔνθα μετ' ἠφὴν ἅλα βάλλει
 290 τῇδ' ὕδωρ, τὸ δ' ὀπισθε βαθὺν διὰ κόλπον ἵησιν
 σχιζόμενος πόντου Τρινακρίου εἰσανέχοντα,
 γαίη δς ὑμετέρη παρακέκλιται, εἰ ἐτεδὸν δὴ
 ὑμετέρης γαίης Ἀχελώιος ἐξανήσιν.'

[253] And straightway Aeson's son and the rest of the heroes bethought them of Phineus, how that he had said that their course from Aea should be different, but to all alike his meaning was dim. Then Argus spake, and they eagerly hearkened: "We go to Orchomenus, whither that unerring seer, whom ye met aforetime, foretold your voyage. For there is another course, signified by those priests of the immortal gods, who have sprung from Tritonian Thebes. As yet all the stars that wheel in the heaven were not, nor yet, though one should inquire, could aught be heard of the sacred race of the Danaï. Apidanæan Arcadians alone existed, Arcadians who lived even before the moon, it is said, eating acorns on the hills; nor at that time was the Pelasgian land ruled by the glorious sons of Deucalion, in the days when Egypt, mother of men of an older time, was called the fertile Morning-land, and the river fair-flowing Triton, by which all the Morning-land is watered; and never does the rain from Zeus moisten the earth; but from the flooding of the river abundant crops spring up. From this land, it is said, a king made his way all round through the whole of Europe and Asia, trusting in the might and strength and courage of his people; and countless cities did he find wherever he came, whereof some are still inhabited and some not; many an age hath passed since then. But Aea abides unshaken even now and the sons of those men whom that king settled to dwell in Aea. They preserve the writings of their fathers, graven on pillars, whereon are marked all the ways and the limits of sea and land as ye journey on all sides round. There is a river, the uttermost horn of Ocean, broad and exceeding deep, that a merchant ship may traverse; they call it Ister and have marked it far off; and for a while it cleaves the boundless tilth alone in one stream; for beyond the blasts of the north wind,

far off in the Rhipaeen mountains, its springs burst forth with a roar. But when it enters the boundaries of the Thracians and Scythians, here, dividing its stream into two, it sends its waters partly into the Ionian sea, and partly to the south into a deep gulf that bends upwards from the Trinaerian sea, that sea which lies along your land, if indeed Achelous flows forth from your land.”

ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη· τοῖσιν δὲ θεὰ τέρας ἐγγυάλιξεν
295 αἶσιον, ᾧ καὶ πάντες ἐπευφήμησαν ἰδόντες
στέλλεσθαι τήνδ' οἶμον. ἐπιπρὸ γὰρ ὄλκος ἐτύχθη
οὐρανίης ἀκτῖνος, ὅπη καὶ ἀμεύσιμον ἦεν.
γηθόσυνοι δὲ Λύκοιο κατ' αὐτόθι παῖδα λιπόντες
λαΐφεσι πεπταμένοισιν ὑπεῖρ ἄλα ναυτίλλοντο,
300 οὖρεα Παφλαγόνων θεύμενοι. οὐδὲ Κάραμβιν
γνάμψαν, ἐπεὶ πνοαί τε καὶ οὐρανίου πυρὸς αἴγλη
μεῖνεν, ἕως Ἴστροιο μέγαν ῥόον εἰσαφίκοντο.

[294] Thus he spake, and to them the goddess granted a happy portent, and all at the sight shouted approval, that this was their appointed path. For before them appeared a trail of heavenly light, a sign where they might pass. And gladly they left behind there the son of Lyeus and with canvas outspread sailed over the sea, with their eyes on the Paphlagonian mountains. But they did not round Carambis, for the winds and the gleam of the heavenly fire stayed with them till they reached Ister's mighty stream.

Κόλχοι δ' αὖτ' ἄλλοι μὲν, ἐτώσια μαστεύοντες,
Κυανέας Πόντοιο διέκ πέτρας ἐπέρησαν·
305 ἄλλοι δ' αὖ ποταμὸν μετεκίαθον, οἷσιν ἄνασσεν
Ἄψυρτος, Καλὸν δὲ διὰ στόμα πεῖρε λιασθείς.
τῷ καὶ ὑπέφθη τούσγε βαλὼν ὕπερ αὐχένα γαίης
κόλπον ἔσω πόντοιο πανέσχατον Ἰονίοιο.
Ἴστρον γάρ τις νῆσος ἐέργεται οὖνομα Πεύκη,
310 τριγλώχιν, εὖρος μὲν ἐς αἰγιαλοὺς ἀνέχουσα,
στεινὸν δ' αὖτ' ἀγκῶνα ποτὶ ῥόον· ἀμφὶ δὲ δοιαὶ
σχίζονται προχοαί. τὴν μὲν καλέουσι Νάρηκος·
τὴν δ' ὑπὸ τῇ νεάτῃ, Καλὸν στόμα. τῇ δὲ διαπρὸ
Ἄψυρτος Κόλχοι τε θοώτερον ὠρμήθησαν·
315 οἱ δ' ὑψοῦ νήσοιο κατ' ἀκροτάτης ἐνέοντο
τηλόθεν. εἰαμενῆσι δ' ἐν ἄσπετα πῶεα λείπον
ποιμένες ἄγραυλοι νηῶν φόβῳ, οἳά τε θῆρας
ὀσσόμενοι πόντου μεγακήτεος ἐξανιόντας.
οὐ γάρ πω ἀλίας γε πάρος ποθὶ νῆας ἴδοντο,
320 οὔτ' οὖν Θρήϊξιν μιγάδες Σκύθαι, οὐδὲ Σίγυννοι,
οὔτ' οὖν Γραυκένιοι, οὔθ' οἱ περὶ Λαύριον ἦδη
Σίνδοι ἐρημαῖον πεδίον μέγα ναιετάοντες.
αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ τ' Ἀγγουρον ὄρος, καὶ ἄπωθεν ἐόντα

Ἀγγούρου ὄρεος σκόπελον πάρα Καυλιακοῖο,
 325 ᾧ περὶ δὴ σχίζων Ἴστρος ῥόον ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα
 βάλλει ἁλός, πεδίον τε τὸ Λαύριον ἡμείναντο,
 δὴ ῥα τότε Κρονίην Κόλχοι ἄλαδ' ἐκπρομολόντες
 πάντη, μὴ σφε λάθοιεν, ὑπετμήξαντο κελεύθους.
 οἱ δ' ὅπιθεν ποταμοῖο κατήλυθον, ἐκ δ' ἐπέρησαν
 330 δοιὰς Ἀρτέμιδος Βρυγηίδας ἀγχόθι νήσους.
 τῶν δ' ἦτοι ἐτέρη μὲν ἐν ἱερὸν ἔσκεν ἔδεθλον:
 ἐνδ' ἐτέρη, πληθὺν πεφυλαγμένοι Ἀψύρτοιο,
 βαῖνον: ἐπεὶ κείνας πολέων λίπον ἔνδοθι νήσους
 αὐτῶς, ἄζόμενοι κούρην Διός: αἱ δὲ δὴ ἄλλαι
 335 στεινόμεναι Κόλχοισι πόρους εἵρυντο θαλάσσης.
 ὧς δὲ καὶ εἰς ἀκτὰς πληθὺν λίπεν ἀγχόθι νήσων
 μέσφα Σαλαγγῶνος ποταμοῦ καὶ Νέστιδος αἵης.

[303] Now some of the Colchians, in a vain search, passed out from Pontus through the Cyanean rocks; but the rest went to the river, and them Apsyrtus led, and, turning aside, he entered the mouth called Fair. Wherefore he outstripped the heroes by crossing a neck of land into the furthest gulf of the Ionian sea. For a certain island is enclosed by Ister, by name Peuee, three-cornered, its base stretching along the coast, and with a sharp angle towards the river; and round it the outfall is cleft in two. One mouth they call the mouth of Narex, and the other, at the lower end, the Fair mouth. And through this Apsyrtus and his Colchians rushed with all speed; but the heroes went upwards far away towards the highest part of the island. And in the meadows the country shepherds left their countless flocks for dread of the ships, for they deemed that they were beasts coming forth from the monster-teeming sea. For never yet before had they seen seafaring ships, neither the Scythians mingled with the Thracians, nor the Sigynni, nor yet the Graucenii, nor the Sindi that now inhabit the vast desert plain of Laurium. But when they had passed near the mount Angurum, and the cliff of Cauliacus, far from the mount Angurum, round which Ister, dividing his stream, falls into the sea on this side and on that, and the Laurian plain, then indeed the Colchians went forth into the Cronian sea and cut off all the ways, to prevent their foes' escape. And the heroes came down the river behind and reached the two Brygean isles of Artemis near at hand. Now in one of them was a sacred temple; and on the other they landed, avoiding the host of Apsyrtus; for the Colchians had left these islands out of many within the river, just as they were, through reverence for the daughter of Zeus; but the rest, thronged by the Colchians, barred the ways to the sea. And so on other islands too, close by, Apsyrtus left his host as far as the river Salangon and the Nestian land.

ἔνθα κε λευγαλέῃ Μινύαι τότε δηιοτῆτι
 παυρότεροι πλεόνεσσιν ὑπέικαθον: ἀλλὰ πάροιθεν
 340 συνθεσίην, μέγα νεῖκος ἀλευάμενοι, ἐτάμοντο,

κῶας μὲν χρύσειον, ἐπεὶ σφισιν αὐτὸς ὑπέσტი
Αἰήτης, εἰ κεῖνοι ἀναπλήσειαν ἀέθλους,
ἔμπεδον εὐδικίῃ σφέας ἐξέμεν, εἴτε δόλοισιν,
εἴτε καὶ ἀμφοδίῃν αὐτῶς ἀέκοντος ἀπηύρων·
345 αὐτὰρ Μῆδειάν γε — τὸ γὰρ πέλεν ἀμφήριστον —
παρθέσθαι κούρῃ Λητωίδι νόσφιν ὁμίλου,
εἰσόκε τις δικάσῃσι θεμιστοῦχων βασιλῆων,
εἴτε μιν εἰς πατρὸς χρεῖω δόμον αὖτις ἰκάνειν,
εἴτε μεθ' Ἑλλάδα γαῖαν ἀριστήεσσιν ἔπεσθαι.

[338] There the Minyae would at that time have yielded in grim fight, a few to many; but ere then they made a covenant, shunning a dire quarrel; as to the golden fleece, that since Aeetes himself had so promised them if they should fulfill the contests, they should keep it as justly won, whether they carried it off by craft or even openly in the king's despite; but as to Medea — for that was the cause of strife — that they should give her in ward to Leto's daughter apart from the throng, until some one of the kings that dispense justice should utter his doom, whether she must return to her father's home or follow the chieftains to the land of Hellas.

350 ἔνθα δ' ἐπεὶ τὰ ἕκαστα νόφ' πεμπάσσατο κούρῃ,
δὴ ρά μιν ὀξεῖαι κραδίῃν ἐλέλιζαν ἀνῖαι
νωλεμές· αἶψα δὲ νόσφιν Ἰήσωνα μοῦνον ἐταίρων
ἐκπροκαλεσσαμένη ἄγεν ἄλλυδις, ὄφρ' ἐλίασθεν
πολλὸν ἐκάς, στονόεντα δ' ἐνωπαδὶς ἔκφατο μῦθον·

355 'Αἰσονίδῃ, τίνα τήνδε συναρτύνασθε μενοινῆν
ἀμφ' ἐμοί; ἥ ἔ σε πάγχυ λαθιφροσύναις ἐνέηκαν
ἀγλαῖαι, τῶν δ' οὔτι μετατρέπη, ὅσσ' ἀγόρευες
χρηιοῖ ἐνισχύμενος; ποῦ τοι Διὸς Ἰκεσίοιο
ὄρκια, ποῦ δὲ μελιχραὶ ὑποσχεσίαι βεβάασιν;

360 ἧς ἐγὼ οὐ κατὰ κόσμον ἀναιδήτῳ ἰότητι
πάτρην τε κλέα τε μεγάρων αὐτούς τε τοκῆας
νοσφισάμην, τά μοι ἦεν ὑπέρτατα· τηλόθι δ' οἷη
λυγρῇσιν κατὰ πόντον ἄμ' ἀλκυόνεσσι φορεῦμαι
σὼν ἔνεκεν καμάτων, ἵνα μοι σόος ἀμφί τε βουσὶν

365 ἀμφί τε γηγενέεσσιν ἀναπλήσειας ἀέθλους.
ὕστατον αὖ καὶ κῶας, ἐπεὶ τ' ἐπαῖστος ἐτύχθη,
εἶλες ἐμῇ ματίῃ· κατὰ δ' οὐλοδὸν αἶσχος ἔχευα
θηλυτέrais. τῷ φημι τεὴ κούρῃ τε δάμαρ τε
αὐτοκασιγνήτη τε μεθ' Ἑλλάδα γαῖαν ἔπεσθαι.

370 πάντῃ νυν πρόφρων ὑπερίστασο, μηδὲ με μούνην
σεῖο λίπης ἀπάνευθεν, ἐποικόμενος βασιλῆας.
ἀλλ' αὐτῶς εἴρυσσο· δίκη δέ τοι ἔμπεδος ἔστω
καὶ θέμις, ἦν ἄμφω συναρέσσαμεν· ἦ σὺ γ' ἔπειτα
φασγάνῳ αὐτίκα τόνδε μέσον διὰ λαιμὸν ἀμῆσαι,

375 ὄφρ' ἐπὶ ἥρα φέρωμαι ἐοικότα μαργοσύνησιν.
 σχετλίῃ, εἴ κεν δὴ με κασιγνήτοιο δικάσῃ
 ἔμμεναι οὗτος ἄναξ, τῷ ἐπίσχετε τάσδ' ἄλγερινὰς
 ἄμφω συνθεσίας. πῶς ἴξομαι ὄμματα πατρός;
 ἦ μάλ' ἐνκλειής; τίνα δ' οὐ τίσιν, ἢ βαρεῖαν
 380 ἄτην οὐ σμυγερωῶς δεινῶν ὕπερ, οἷα ἔοργα,
 ὀτλήσω; σὺ δέ κεν θυμηδέα νόστον ἔλοιο;
 μὴ τόγε παμβασίλεια Διὸς τελέσειεν ἄκοιτις,
 ἦ ἐπικυδιάεις. μνήσαιο δέ καί ποτ' ἐμεῖο,
 στρευγόμενος καμάτοισι: δέρος δέ τοι ἴσον ὀνείροις
 385 οἴχοιτ' εἰς ἔρεβος μεταμώνιον. ἐκ δέ σε πάτρης
 αὐτίκ' ἐμαί σ' ἐλάσειαν Ἐρινύες: οἷα καὶ αὐτὴ
 σῇ πάθον ἀτροπίῃ. τὰ μὲν οὐ θέμις ἀκράαντα
 ἐν γαίῃ πεσέειν. μάλα γὰρ μέγαν ἥλιτες ὄρκον,
 νηλεές: ἄλλ' οὐ θῆν μοι ἐπιλλίζοντες ὀπίσσω
 390 δὴν ἔσσεσθ' εὐκηλοὶ ἔκητί γε συνθεσιάων.'

[350] Now when the maiden had mused upon all this, sharp anguish shook her heart unceasingly; and quickly she called forth Jason alone apart from his comrades, and led him aside until they were far away, and before his face uttered her speech all broken with sobs: "What is this purpose that ye are now devising about me, O son of Aeson? Has thy triumph utterly cast forgetfulness upon thee, and reekest thou nothing of all that thou spakest when held fast by necessity? Whither are fled the oaths by Zeus the suppliants' god, whither are fled thy honied promises? For which in no seemly wise, with shameless will, I have left my country, the glories of my home and even my parents — things that were dearest to me; and far away all alone I am borne over the sea with the plaintive kingfishers because of thy trouble, in order that I might save thy life in fulfilling the contests with the oxen and the earthborn men. Last of all the fleece — when the matter became known, it was by my folly thou didst win it; and a foul reproach have I poured on womankind. Wherefore I say that as thy child, thy bride and thy sister, I follow thee to the land of Hellas. Be ready to stand by me to the end, abandon me not left forlorn of thee when thou dost visit the kings. But only save me; let justice and right, to which we have both agreed, stand firm; or else do thou at once shear through this neck with the sword, that I may gain the guerdon due to my mad passion. Poor wretch! if the king, to whom you both commit your cruel covenant, doom me to belong to my brother. How shall I come to my father's sight? Will it be with a good name? What revenge, what heavy calamity shall I not endure in agony for the terrible deeds I have done? And wilt thou win the return that thy heart desires? Never may Zeus' bride, the queen of all, in whom thou dost glory, bring that to pass. Mayst thou some time remember me when thou art racked with anguish; may the fleece like a dream vanish into the nether darkness on the wings of the wind! And may my avenging Furies forthwith drive thee from thy country, for all that I have suffered through thy cruelty!

These curses will not be allowed to fall unaccomplished to the ground. A mighty oath hast thou transgressed, ruthless one; but not long shalt thou and thy comrades sit at ease casting eyes of mockery upon me, for all your covenants.”

ὥς φάτ' ἀναζείουσα βαρὺν χόλον· ἵετο δ' ἥγε
νῆα καταφλέξει, διὰ τ' ἔμπεδα πάντα κεάσσαι,
ἐν δὲ πεσεῖν αὐτὴ μαλερῷ πυρί. τοῖα δ' Ἰήσων
μειλιχίοις ἐπέεσσιν ὑποδδείσας προσέειπεν·
395 ἴσχεο, δαιμόνιη· τὰ μὲν ἀνδάνει οὐδ' ἔμοι αὐτῷ.
ἀλλὰ τιν' ἀμβολίην διζήμεθα δηιοτῆτος,
ὅσσον δυσμενέων ἀνδρῶν νέφος ἀμφιδέδην
εἵνεκα σεῦ. πάντες γάρ, ὅσοι χθόνα τήνδε νέμονται,
Ἀψύρτῳ μεμάασιν ἀμυνέμεν, ὄφρα σε πατρί,
400 οἷά τε ληισθεῖσαν, ὑπότροπον οἴκαδ' ἄγοιντο.
αὐτοὶ δὲ στυγερῷ κεν ὀλοίμεθα πάντες ὀλέθρῳ,
μίξαντες δαὶ χεῖρας· ὃ τοι καὶ ῥίγιον ἄλγος
ἔσσεται, εἴ σε θανόντες ἔλωρ κείνοισι λίποιμεν.
ἦδε δὲ συνθεσίῃ κρανέει δόλον, ᾧ μιν ἐς αἶτην
405 βῆσομεν. οὐδ' ἂν ὁμῶς περιναιέται ἀντιώσιν
Κόλχοις ἦρα φέροντες ὑπὲρ σέο νόσφιν ἄνακτος,
ὅς τοι ἀοσσητὴρ τε κασίγνητός τε τέτυκται·
οὐδ' ἂν ἐγὼ Κόλχοισιν ὑπεῖξω μὴ πολεμίζειν
ἀντιβίην, ὅτε μή με δι᾽ εἰῶσι νέεσθαι.

[391] Thus she spake, seething with fierce wrath; and she longed to set fire to the ship and to hew it utterly in pieces, and herself to fall into the raging flame. But Jason, half afraid, thus addressed her with gentle words: “Forbear, lady; me too this pleases not. But we seek some respite from battle, for such a cloud of hostile men, like to a fire, surrounds us, on thy account. For all that inhabit this land are eager to aid Apsyrtus, that they may lead thee back home to thy father, like some captured maid. And all of us would perish in hateful destruction, if we closed with them in fight; and bitterer still will be the pain, if we are slain and leave thee to be their prey. But this covenant will weave a web of guile to lead him to ruin. Nor will the people of the land for thy sake oppose us, to favour the Colchians, when their prince is no longer with them, who is thy champion and thy brother; nor will I shrink from matching myself in fight with the Colchians, if they bar my way homeward.”

410 Ἴσκεν ὑποσσαίνων· ἡ δ' οὐλοὸν ἔκφατο μῦθον·
‘φράζω νῦν. χρειῶ γὰρ ἀεικελίοισιν ἐπ’ ἔργοις
καὶ τόδε μητίσασθαι, ἐπεὶ τὸ πρῶτον ἀάσθην
ἀμπλακίῃ, θεόθεν δὲ κακὰς ἦνυσσα μενοινάς.
τὴν μὲν κατὰ μῶλον ἀλέξεο δούρατα Κόλχων·
415 αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ κείνόν γε τεὰς ἐς χεῖρας ἰκέσθαι

μελίξω: σὺ δέ μιν φαιδροῖς ἀγαπάζεο δώροις.
εἴ κέν πως κήρυκας ἀπερχομένους πεπίθοιμι
οἰόθεν οἶον ἐμοῖσι συναρθμῆσαι ἐπέεσσιν,
ἐνθ' εἴ τοι τόδε ἔργον ἐφανδάνει, οὔτι μεγαίρω,
420 κτεῖνέ τε, καὶ Κόλχοισιν ἀείρεο δημοτῆτα.'

[410] Thus he spake soothing her; and she uttered a deadly speech: "Take heed now. For when sorry deeds are done we must needs devise sorry counsel, since at first I was distraught by my error, and by heaven's will it was I wrought the accomplishment of evil desires. Do thou in the turmoil shield me from the Colchians' spears; and I will beguile Apsyrtus to come into thy hands — do thou greet him with splendid gifts — if only I could persuade the heralds on their departure to bring him alone to hearken to my words. Thereupon if this deed pleases thee, slay him and raise a conflict with the Colchians, I care not.

ὥς τώγε ξυμβάντε μέγαν δόλον ἡρτύνοντο
Ἀψύρτῳ, καὶ πολλὰ πόρον ξεινῆια δῶρα,
οἷς μέτα καὶ πέπλον δόσαν ἱερὸν Ὑψιπυλείης
πορφύρεον. τὸν μὲν ῥα Διωνύσῳ κάμον αὐταὶ
425 δῖη ἐν ἀμφιάλῳ Χάριτες θεαί: αὐτὰρ ὁ παιδὶ
δῶκε Θόαντι μεταῦτις: ὁ δ' αὖ λίπεν Ὑψιπυλείη:
ἢ δ' ἔπορ' Αἰσονίδῃ πολέσιν μετὰ καὶ τὸ φέρεσθαι
γλήνεσιν εὐεργὲς ξεινῆιον. οὐ μιν ἀφάσσων,
οὔτε κεν εἰσορόων γλυκὺν ἥμερον ἐμπλήσειας.
430 τοῦ δὲ καὶ ἀμβροσίῃ ὁδμῇ πέλεν ἐξέτι κείνου,
ἐξ οὗ ἄναξ αὐτὸς Νυσῆιος ἐγκατελεκτο
ἀκροχάλιξ οἶνῳ καὶ νέκταρι, καλὰ μεμαρπὼς
στήθεα παρθενικῆς Μινωίδος, ἣν ποτε Θησεὺς
Κνωσσόθεν ἐσπομένην Δίῃ ἐνὶ κάλλιπε νήσῳ.
435 ἢ δ' ὅτε κηρύκεσσιν ἐπεξυνώσατο μύθους,
θελγέμεν, εὖτ' ἂν πρῶτα θεᾶς περὶ νηὸν ἵκηται
συνθεσίῃ, νυκτός τε μέλαν κνέφας ἀμφιβάλῃσιν,
ἐλθέμεν, ὄφρα δόλον συμφράσσεται, ὥς κεν ἐλοῦσα
χρύσειον μέγα κῶας ὑπότροπος αὖτις ὀπίσσω
440 βαίῃ ἐς Αἰήταο δόμους: πέρι γάρ μιν ἀνάγκη
υἱῆς Φρίξοιο δόσαν ξεινοῖσιν ἄγεσθαι:
τοῖα παραιφαμένη θελκτήρια φάρμακ' ἔπασσεν
αἰθέρι καὶ πνοιῇσι, τὰ κεν καὶ ἄπωθεν ἐόντα
ἄγριον ἡλιβάτοιο κατ' οὐρεὸς ἤγαγε θῆρα.

[421] So they two agreed and prepared a great web of guile for Apsyrtus, and provided many gifts such as are due to guests, and among them gave a sacred robe of Hypsipyle, of crimson hue. The Graces with their own hands had wrought it for Dionysus in sea-girt Dia, and he gave it to his son Thoas

thereafter, and Thoas left it to Hypsipyle, and she gave that fair-wrought guest-gift with many another marvel to Aeson's son to wear. Never couldst thou satisfy thy sweet desire by touching it or gazing on it. And from it a divine fragrance breathed from the time when the king of Nysa himself lay to rest thereon, flushed with wine and nectar as he clasped the beauteous breast of the maiden-daughter of Minos, whom once Theseus forsook in the island of Dia, when she had followed him from Cnossus. And when she had worked upon the heralds to induce her brother to come, as soon as she reached the temple of the goddess, according to the agreement, and the darkness of night surrounded them, that so she might devise with him a cunning plan for her to take the mighty fleece of gold and return to the home of Aeetes, for, she said, the sons of Phrixus had given her by force to the strangers to carry off; with such beguiling words she scattered to the air and the breezes her witching charms, which even from afar would have drawn down the savage beast from the steep mountain-height.

445 σχέτλι' Ἔρωρ, μέγα πῆμα, μέγα στύγος ἀνθρώποισιν,
ἐκ σέθεν οὐλόμεναι τ' ἔριδες στοναχαί τε γόοι τε,
ἄλγεά τ' ἄλλ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ἀπείρονα τετρήχασιν.
δυσμενέων ἐπὶ παισὶ κορύσσειο, δαῖμον, ἀερθεῖς,
οἷος Μηδείῃ στυγερὴν φρεσὶν ἔμβαλες ἄτην.
450 πῶς γὰρ δὴ μετιόντα κακῷ ἐδάμασσαν ὀλέθρῳ
Ἄψυρτον; τὸ γὰρ ἡμῖν ἐπισχερῶ ἦεν ἀοιδῆς.

[445] Ruthless Love, great bane, great curse to mankind, from thee come deadly strifes and lamentations and groans, and countless pains as well have their stormy birth from thee. Arise, thou god, and arm thyself against the sons of our foes in such guise as when thou didst fill Medea's heart with accursed madness. How then by evil doom did she slay Apsyrtus when he came to meet her? For that must our song tell next.

ἦμος ὅτ' Ἀρτέμιδος νήσῳ ἔνι τήνγ' ἐλίποντο
συνθεσίῃ. τοὶ μὲν ῥα διάνδιχα νηυσὶν ἔκελσαν
σφωιτέραις κρινθέντες· ὁ δ' ἐς λόχον ἦεν Ἰήσῳ
455 δέγμενος Ἄψυρτόν τε καὶ οὖς ἐξαῦτις ἐταίρους.
αὐτὰρ ὄγ' αἰνοτάτησιν ὑποσχέσῃσι δολωθεῖς
καρπαλίμως ἢ νηὶ διεξ ἁλὸς οἶδμα περήσας,
νύχθ' ὑπο λυγαῖην ἱερῆς ἐπεβήσατο νήσου·
οἰόθι δ' ἀντικρὺ μετιὼν πειρήσατο μύθοις
460 εἶο κασιγνήτης, ἀταλὸς πάϊς οἷα χαράδρης
χειμερίας, ἦν οὐδὲ δι' αἰζηοὶ περώωσιν.
εἰ κε δόλον ξείνοισιν ἐπ' ἀνδράσι τεχνήσαιτο.
καὶ τῷ μὲν τὰ ἕκαστα συνήνεον ἀλλήλοισιν·
αὐτίκα δ' Αἰσονίδης πυκινοῦ ἐξᾶλτο λόχοιο,
465 γυμνὸν ἀνασχόμενος παλάμη ξίφος· αἴψα δὲ κούρη

ἔμπαλιν ὄμματ' ἔνεικε, καλυψαμένη ὀθόνησιν,
 μὴ φόνον ἀθρήσειε κασιγνήτοιο τυπέντος.
 τὸν δ' ὄγε, βουτύπος ὥστε μέγαν κερεαλκέα ταῦρον,
 πληῖξεν ὀπιτεύσας νηοῦ σχεδόν, ὃν ποτ' ἔδειμαν
 470 Ἀρτέμιδι Βρυγοὶ περυναίεται ἀντιπέρηθεν.
 τοῦ ὄγ' ἐνὶ προδόμῳ γνῦξ ἤριπε· λοίσθια δ' ἦρωσ
 θυμὸν ἀναπνεῖων χερσὶν μέλαν ἀμφοτέρησιν
 αἶμα κατ' ὠτειλὴν ὑποῖσχετο· τῆς δὲ καλύπτρην
 ἀργυφέην καὶ πέπλον ἀλευομένης ἐρύθηνεν.
 475 ὅξυ δὲ πανδαμάτωρ λοξῶ ἶδεν οἷον ἔρεξαν
 ὄμματι νηλειῆς ὀλοφώιον ἔργον Ἐρινύς.
 ἦρωσ δ' Αἰσονίδης ἐξάργματα τάμνε θανόντος,
 τρὶς δ' ἀπέλειξε φόνου, τρὶς δ' ἐξ ἄγος ἔπτυσ' ὀδόντων,
 ἥ θέμις αὐθέντησι δολοκτασίας ἰλάεσθαι.
 480 ὕγρὸν δ' ἐν γαίῃ κρύψεν νέκυν, ἔνθ' ἔτι νῦν περ

[452] When the heroes had left the maiden on the island of Artemis, according to the covenant, both sides ran their ships to land separately. And Jason went to the ambush to lie in wait for Apsyrtus and then for his comrades. But he, beguiled by these dire promises, swiftly crossed the swell of the sea in his ship, and in dark night set foot on the sacred island; and faring all alone to meet her he made trial in speech of his sister, as a tender child tries a wintry torrent which not even strong men can pass through, to see if she would devise some guile against the strangers. And so they two agreed together on everything; and straightway Aeson's son leapt forth from the thick ambush, lifting his bare sword in his hand; and quickly the maiden turned her eyes aside and covered them with her veil that she might not see the blood of her brother when he was smitten. And Jason marked him and struck him down, as a butcher strikes down a mighty strong-horned bull, hard by the temple which the Brygi on the mainland opposite had once built for Artemis. In its vestibule he fell on his knees; and at last the hero breathing out his life caught up in both hands the dark blood as it welled from the wound; and he dyed with red his sister's silvery veil and robe as she shrank away. And with swift side-glance the irresistible pitiless Fury beheld the deadly deed they had done. And the hero, Aeson's son, cut off the extremities of the dead man, and thrice licked up some blood and thrice spat the pollution from his teeth, as it is right for the slayer to do, to atone for a treacherous murder. And the clammy corpse he hid in the ground where even now those bones lie among the Apsyrrians.

κείται ὅστέα κείνα μετ' ἀνδράσιν Ἀψυρτεῦσιν.
 οἱ δ' ἄμυδις πυρσοῖο σέλας προπάροιθεν ἰδόντες,
 τό σφιν παρθενικὴ τέκμαρ μετιοῦσιν ἄειρεν,
 Κολχίδος ἀγχόθι νηὸς ἐὴν παρὰ νῆ' ἐβάλλοντο
 485 ἦρωες· Κόλχον δ' ὄλεκον στόλον, ἥυτε κίρκοι
 φῦλα πελειάων, ἥ ἐ μέγα πῶν λέοντες

ἀγρότεροι κλονέουσιν ἐνὶ σταθμοῖσι θορόντες.
 οὐδ' ἄρα τις κείνων θάνατον φύγε, πάντα δ' ὅμιλον
 πῦρ ἅ τε δηϊόνωντες ἐπέδραμον: ὄψε δ' Ἰήσων
 490 ἦντησεν, μεμαῶς ἐπαμυνέμεν οὐ μάλ' ἀρωγῆς
 δευομένοις: ἥδη δὲ καὶ ἄμφ' αὐτοῖο μέλοντο.
 ἔνθα δὲ ναυτιλίας πυκινὴν περὶ μητιάσκειον
 ἐζόμενοι βουλήν: ἐπὶ δὲ σφισιν ἤλυθε κούρη
 φραζομένοις: Πηλεὺς δὲ παροίτατος ἔκφατο μῦθον:
 495 ἥδη νῦν κέλομαι νύκτωρ ἔτι νῆ' ἐπιβάντας
 εἰρεσίῃ περάαν πλόον ἀντίον, ᾧ ἐπέχουσιν
 δῆιοι: ἠῶθεν γὰρ ἐπαθρήσαντας ἕκαστα
 ἔλπομαι οὐχ ἓνα μῦθον, ὅτις προτέρωσε δίεσθαι
 500 εὐνιδες, ἀργαλέῃσι διχοστασίης κεδόωνται.
 ῥηιδίῃ δὲ κεν ἄμμι, κεδασθέντων δίχα λαῶν,
 ἥ τ' εἴη μετέπειτα κατερχομένοισι κέλευθος.'

[481] Now as soon as the heroes saw the blaze of a torch, which the maiden raised for them as a sign to pursue, they laid their own ship near the Colchian ship, and they slaughtered the Colchian host, as kites slay the tribes of wood-pigeons, or as lions of the wold, when they have leapt amid the steading, drive a great flock of sheep huddled together. Nor did one of them escape death, but the heroes rushed upon the whole crew, destroying them like a flame; and at last Jason met them, and was eager to give aid where none was needed; but already they were taking thought for him too. Thereupon they sat to devise some prudent counsel for their voyage, and the maiden came upon them as they pondered, but Peleus spake his word first: "I now bid you embark while it is still night, and take with your oars the passage opposite to that which the enemy guards, for at dawn when they see their plight I deem that no word urging to further pursuit of us will prevail with them; but as people bereft of their king, they will be scattered in grievous dissension. And easy, when the people are scattered, will this path be for us on our return."

ὧς ἔφατ': ἦντησαν δὲ νέοι ἔπος Λιακίδαο.
 ῥίμφα δὲ νῆ' ἐπιβάντες ἐπερρώοντ' ἐλάτησιν
 505 νωλεμές, ὄφρ' ἱερὴν Ἥλεκτρίδα νῆσον ἵκοντο,
 ἀλλάων ὑπάτην, ποταμοῦ σχεδὸν Ἠριδανοῖο.

[503] Thus he spake; and the youths assented to the words of Aeacus' son. And quickly they entered the ship, and toiled at their oars unceasingly until they reached the sacred isle of Electra, the highest of them all, near the river Eridanus.

Κόλχοι δ' ὀππότε ὄλεθρον ἐπεφράσθησαν ἄνακτος,
 ἥτοι μὲν δίζεσθαι ἐπέχραον ἐνδοθι πάσης
 Ἀργῶ καὶ Μινύας Κρονίης ἁλός. ἀλλ' ἀπέρυκεν

510 Ἥρη σμερδαλέησι κατ' αἰθέρος ἀστεροπῇσιν.
ὕστατον αὐτοὶ δ' αὖτε Κυταΐδος ἦθεα γαίης
στύξαν, ἀτυζόμενοι χόλον ἄγριον Αἰήταο,
ἔμπεδα δ' ἄλλυδις ἄλλοι ἐφορμηθέντες ἔνασθεν.
οἱ μὲν ἐπ' αὐτάων νήσων ἔβαν, ἧσιν ἐπέσχον
515 ἥρωες, ναίουσι δ' ἐπώνυμοι Ἀψύρτοιο:
οἱ δ' ἄρ' ἐπ' Ἰλλυρικοῖο μελαμβαθέος ποταμοῖο,
τύμβος ἴν' Ἀρμονίης Κάδμοιό τε, πύργον ἔδειμαν,
ἀνδράσιν Ἐγχελέεσσιν ἐφέστιοι: οἱ δ' ἐν ὄρεσσιν
ἐνναίουσιν, ἅπερ τε Κεραῦνια κικλήσκονται,
520 ἐκ τόθεν, ἐξότε τούσγε Διὸς Κρονίδαο κεραυνοὶ
νῆσον ἐς ἀντιπέραιαν ἀπέτραπον ὀρμηθῆναι.

[507] But when the Colchians learnt the death of their prince, verily they were eager to pursue Argo and the Minyans through all the Cronian sea. But Hera restrained them by terrible lightnings from the sky. And at last they loathed their own homes in the Cytaean land, quailing before Aeetes' fierce wrath; so they landed and made abiding homes there, scattered far and wide. Some set foot on those very islands where the heroes had stayed, and they still dwell there, bearing a name derived from Apsyrtus; and others built a fenced city by the dark deep Illyrian river, where is the tomb of Harmonia and Cadmus, dwelling among the Encheleans; and others live amid the mountains which are called the Thunderers, from the day when the thunders of Zeus, son of Cronos, prevented them from crossing over to the island opposite.

ἥρωες δ' ὅτε δὴ σφιν εἰσατο νόστος ἀπῆμων,
δὴ ῥα τότε προμολόντες ἐπὶ χθονὶ πείσματ' ἔδησαν
Ἕλληων. νῆσοι γὰρ ἐπιπρούχοντο θαμειαὶ
525 ἀργαλέην πλώουσιν ὁδὸν μεσσηγὺς ἔχουσαι
οὐδέ σφιν, ὥς καὶ πρίν, ἀνάρσια μητιάσκειν
Ἕλληες: πρὸς δ' αὐτοὶ ἐμηχανόωντο κέλευθον,
μισθὸν ἀειρόμενοι τρίποδα μέγαν Ἀπόλλωνος.
δοιοὺς γὰρ τρίποδας τηλοῦ πόρε Φοῖβος ἄγεσθαι
530 Αἰσονίδῃ περόωντι κατὰ χρέος, ὅππότε Πυθῶ
ἱρὴν πευσόμενος μετεκίαθε τῆσδ' ὑπὲρ αὐτῆς
ναυτιλίας: πέπρωτο δ' ὅπῃ χθονὸς ἰδρυνθεῖεν,
μήποτε τὴν δῆοισιν ἀναστήσεσθαι ἰοῦσιν.
τοῦνεκεν εἰσέτι νῦν κείνη ὁδε κεύθεται αἶψα
535 ἀμφὶ πόλιν ἀγανὴν Ἑλληνίδα, πολλὸν ἔνερθεν
οὐδδὲος, ὥς κεν ἄφαντος αἰεὶ μερόπεσσι πέλοιτο.
οὐ μὲν ἔτι ζῶοντα καταυτόθι τέτμον ἄνακτα
Ἕλλον, ὃν εὐειδὴς Μελίτη τέκεν Ἡρακλῆϊ
δῆμῳ Φαιήκων. ὁ γὰρ οἰκία Ναυσιθόοιο
540 Μάκριν τ' εἰσαφίκανε, Διωνύσοιο τιθήνην,
νιψόμενος παίδων ὀλοὸν φόνον: ἔνθ' ὄγε κούρην

Αἰγαίου ἐδάμασσαν ἑρασσάμενος ποταμοῖο,
νηιάδα Μελίτην· ἥ δὲ σθεναρὸν τέκεν Ὕλλον.
οὐδ' ἄρ' ὄγ' ἠβήσας αὐτῇ ἐνὶ ἔλδετο νήσφ
ναίειν, κοιρανέοντος ὑπ' ὀφρύσι Ναυσιθόοιο·
βῆ δ' ἄλαδε Κρονίην, αὐτόχθονα λαὸν ἀγείρας
Φαίηκων· σὺν γάρ οἱ ἄναξ πόρσυνε κέλευθον
550 ἥρωσ Ναυσίθοος· τόθι δ' εἷσατο, καὶ μιν ἔπεφνον
Μέντορες, ἀγραύλοισιν ἀλεξόμενον περὶ βουσίν.

[522] Now the heroes, when their return seemed safe for them, fared onward and made their hawsers fast to the land of the Hylleans. For the islands lay thick in the river and made the path dangerous for those who sailed thereby. Nor, as aforetime, did the Hylleans devise their hurt, but of their own accord furthered their passage, winning as guerdon a mighty tripod of Apollo. For tripods twain had Phoebus given to Aeson's son to carry afar in the voyage he had to make, at the time when he went to sacred Pytho to enquire about this very voyage; and it was ordained by fate that in whatever land they should be placed, that land should never be ravaged by the attacks of foemen. Therefore even now this tripod is hidden in that land near the pleasant city of Hyllus, far beneath the earth, that it may ever be unseen by mortals. Yet they found not King Hyllus still alive in the land, whom fair Melite bare to Heracles in the land of the Phaeacians. For he came to the abode of Nausithous and to Macris, the nurse of Dionysus, to cleanse himself from the deadly murder of his children; here he loved and overcame the water nymph Melite, the daughter of the river Aegaeus, and she bare mighty Hyllus. But when he had grown up he desired not to dwell in that island under the rule of Nausithous the king; but he collected a host of native Phaeacians and came to the Cronian sea; for the hero King Nausithous aided his journey, and there he settled, and the Mentores slew him as he was fighting for the oxen of his field.

ἀλλά, θεαί, πῶς τῆσδε παρέξ ἁλός, ἀμφί τε γαῖαν
Αὐσονίην νήσους τε Λιγυστίδας, αἱ καλέονται
Στοιχάδες, Ἀργῶης περιώσια σήματα νηὸς
555 νημερτὲς πέφαται· τίς ἀπόπροθι τόσσον ἀνάγκη
καὶ χρειώ σφ' ἐκόμισσε; τίνες σφέας ἤγαγον αὖραι;

[552] Now, goddesses, say how it is that beyond this sea, near the land of Ausonia and the Ligystian isles, which are called Stoechades, the mighty tracks of the ship Argo are clearly sung of? What great constraint and need brought the heroes so far? What breezes wafted them?

αὐτόν που μεγαλωστὶ δεδουπότος Ἀψύρτοιο
Ζῆνα, θεῶν βασιλῆα, χόλος λάβεν, οἷον ἔρεξαν.
Αἰαίης δ' ὀλοὸν τεκμήρατο δῆνεσι Κίρκης
560 αἴμ' ἀπονισαμένους, πρό τε μυρία πημανθέντας,
νοστήσειν. τὸ μὲν οὐτίς ἀριστῆων ἐνόησεν:

ἄλλ' ἔθεον γαίης Ὑλληίδος ἐξανιόντες
 τηλόθι: τὰς δ' ἀπέλειπον, ὅσαι Κόλχοισι πάροιθεν
 ἐξείης πλήθοντο Λιβυρνίδες εἰν ἀλὶ νῆσοι,
 565 Ἴσσα τε Δυσκέλαδός τε καὶ ἱμερτὴ Πιτύεια.
 αὐτὰρ ἔπειτ' ἐπὶ τῇσι παρὰ Κέρκυραν ἵκοντο,
 ἔνθα Ποσειδάων Ἀσωπίδα νάσσατο κούρην,
 ἠύκομον Κέρκυραν, ἐκὰς Φλιουντίδος αἴης,
 ἀρπάξας ὑπ' ἔρωτι: μελαιομένην δέ μιν ἄνδρες
 570 ναυτίλοι ἐκ πόντοιο κελαινῇ πάντοθεν ὕλῃ
 δερκόμενοι Κέρκυραν ἐπικλείουσι Μέλαιναν.
 τῇ δ' ἐπὶ καὶ Μελίτην, λιαρῷ περιγηθέες οὐρῶ,
 αἰπεινὴν τε Κερωσσόν, ὕπερθε δὲ πολλὸν ἐοῦσαν
 Νυμφαῖην παράμειβον, ἵνα κρείουσα Καλυψῷ
 575 Ἀτλαντὶς ναίεσκε: τὰ δ' ἠεροειδέα λεύσσειν
 οὔρεα δοιάζοντο Κεραύνια. καὶ τότε βουλὰς
 ἄμφ' αὐτοῖς Ζηνός τε μέγαν χόλον ἐφράσαθ' Ἥρη.
 μηδομένη δ' ἄνυσιν τοῖο πλόου, ὥρσεν ἀέλλας
 ἀντικρύ, ταῖς αὖτις ἀναρπάγδην φορέοντο
 580 νήσου ἔπι κραναῆς Ἥλεκτρίδος. αὐτίκα δ' ἄφνω
 ἴαχεν ἀνδρομέῃ ἐνοπῇ μεσσηγὺ θεόντων
 αὐδῆεν γλαφυρῆς νηὸς δόρυ, τό ρ' ἀνὰ μέσσην
 στεῖραν Ἀθηναίῃ Δωδωνίδος ἥρμοσε φηγοῦ.
 τοὺς δ' ὀλοὸν μεσσηγὺ δέος λάβεν εἰσαΐοντας
 585 φθογῆν τε Ζηνός τε βαρὺν χόλον. οὐ γὰρ ἀλύζειν
 ἔννεπεν οὔτε πόρους δολιχῆς ἁλός, οὔτε θυέλλας
 ἀργαλέας, ὅτε μὴ Κίρκη φόνον Ἀψύρτοιο
 νηλέα νίψειεν: Πολυδεύκεα δ' εὐχετάσθαι
 Κάστορά τ' ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖς ἦνωγε κελεύθους
 590 Αὐσονίης ἔμπροσθε πορεῖν ἁλός, ἧ ἔνι Κίρκην
 δήουσιν, Πέρσης τε καὶ Ἑλίοιο θύγατρα.

[557] When Apsyrtus had fallen in mighty overthrow Zeus himself, king of gods, was seized with wrath at what they had done. And he ordained that by the counsels of Aeaeon Circe they should cleanse themselves from the terrible stain of blood and suffer countless woes before their return. Yet none of the chieftains knew this; but far onward they sped starting from the Hyllean land, and they left behind all the islands that were beforetime thronged by the Colchians — the Liburnian isles, isle after isle, Issa, Dysceladus, and lovely Pityeia. Next after them they came to Corcyra, where Poseidon settled the daughter of Asopus, fair-haired Corcyra, far from the land of Phlius, whence he had carried her off through love; and sailors beholding it from the sea, all black with its sombre woods, call it Corcyra the Black. And next they passed Melite, rejoicing in the soft-blowing breeze, and steep Cerossus, and Nymphaea at a distance, where lady Calypso, daughter of Atlas, dwelt; and they deemed they saw the misty mountains of Thunder. And then Hera

bethought her of the counsels and wrath of Zeus concerning them. And she devised an ending of their voyage and stirred up storm-winds before them, by which they were caught and borne back to the rocky isle of Electra. And straightway on a sudden there called to them in the midst of their course, speaking with a human voice, the beam of the hollow ship, which Athena had set in the centre of the stem, made of Dodonian oak. And deadly fear seized them as they heard the voice that told of the grievous wrath of Zeus. For it proclaimed that they should not escape the paths of an endless sea nor grievous tempests, unless Circe should purge away the guilt of the ruthless murder of Apsyrtus; and it bade Polydeuces and Castor pray to the immortal gods first to grant a path through the Ausonian sea where they should find Circe, daughter of Perse and Helios.

ὥς Ἀργὼ ἰάχησεν ὑπὸ κνέφας· οἱ δ' ἀνόρουσαν
Τυνδαρίδαι, καὶ χεῖρας ἀνέσχεθον ἀθανάτοισιν
εὐχόμενοι τὰ ἕκαστα· κατηφείη δ' ἔχεν ἄλλους
595 ἥρωας Μινύας, ἥ δ' ἔσσυτο πολλὸν ἐπιπρὸ
λαΐφεσιν, ἐς δ' ἔβαλον μύχατον ρόον Ἑριδανοῖο·
ἐνθα ποτ' αἰθαλόεντι τυπεῖς πρὸς στέρνα κεραυνῶ
ἡμιδαῆς Φαέθων πέσεν ἄρματος Ἡελίοιο
λίμνης ἐς προχοὰς πολυβενθέος· ἥ δ' ἔτι νῦν περ
600 τραύματος αἰθομένοιο βαρὺν ἀνακηκίει ἄτμόν.
οὐδέ τις ὕδωρ κεῖνο διὰ πτερὰ κοῦφα τανύσσας
οἰωνὸς δύναται βαλέειν ὕπερ· ἀλλὰ μεσηγὺς
φλογμῷ ἐπιθρώσκει πεποτημένος. ἀμφὶ δὲ κοῦραι
Ἥλιάδες ταναῆσιν ἐελμέναι αἰγείροισιν,
605 μύρονται κινυρὸν μέλαι γόνον· ἐκ δὲ φαεινὰς
ἡλέκτρον λιβάδας βλεφάρων προχέουσιν ἔραζε,
αἱ μὲν τ' ἡελίῳ ψαμάθοις ἐπὶ τερσαίνονται·
εὗτ' ἂν δὲ κλύζησι κελαινῆς ὕδατα λίμνης
ἡϊόνας πνοιῇ πολυηχέος ἐξ ἀνέμοιο,
610 διὴ τότε· ἐς Ἑριδανὸν προκυλίνδεται ἄθροα πάντα
κυμαίνοντι ρόῳ. Κελτοὶ δ' ἐπὶ βάζιν ἔθεντο,
ὥς ἄρ' Ἀπόλλωνος τάδε δάκρυα Λητοῖδαι
ἐμφέρεται δίναις, ἅ τε μυρία χεῦε πάροιθεν,
ἥμος Ὑπερβορέων ἱερὸν γένος εἰσαφίκανεν,
615 οὐρανὸν αἰγλήεντα λιπὼν ἐκ πατρὸς ἐνιπῆς,
χωόμενος περὶ παιδί, τὸν ἐν λιπαρῇ Λακερείῃ
διὰ Κορωνίς ἔτικτεν ἐπὶ προχοῇς Ἀμύροιο.
καὶ τὰ μὲν ὥς κείνοισι μετ' ἀνδράσι κεκλήσται.
τοὺς δ' οὔτε βρώμης ἦρει πόθος, οὐδὲ ποτοῖο,
620 οὔτ' ἐπὶ γηθοσύνας τράπετο νόος. ἀλλ' ἄρα τοίγε
ἥματα μὲν στρεύγοντο περιβληχρὸν βαρύθοντες
ὁδμῇ λευγαλέῃ, τήν ρ' ἄσχετον ἐξανίσκον
τυφομένου Φαέθοντος ἐπιρροαὶ Ἑριδανοῖο·

νύκτας δ' αὖ γόον ὄξυν ὀδυρομένων ἐσάκουον
625 Ἡλιάδων λιγέως· τὰ δὲ δάκρυα μυρομένησιν
οἷον ἐλαιηραὶ στάγες ὕδασιν ἐμφορέοντο.

[592] Thus Argo cried through the darkness; and the sons of Tyndareus uprose, and lifted their hands to the immortals praying for each boon: but dejection held the rest of the Minyan heroes. And far on sped Argo under sail, and entered deep into the stream of Eridanus; where once, smitten on the breast by the blazing bolt, Phaethon half-consumed fell from the chariot of Helios into the opening of that deep lake; and even now it belcheth up heavy steam clouds from the smouldering wound. And no bird spreading its light wings can cross that water; but in mid-course it plunges into the flame, fluttering. And all around the maidens, the daughters of Helios, enclosed in tall poplars, wretchedly wail a piteous plaint; and from their eyes they shed on the ground bright drops of amber. These are dried by the sun upon the sand; but whenever the waters of the dark lake flow over the strand before the blast of the wailing wind, then they roll on in a mass into Eridanus with swelling tide. But the Celts have attached this story to them, that these are the tears of Leto's son, Apollo, that are borne along by the eddies, the countless tears that he shed aforetime when he came to the sacred race of the Hyperboreans and left shining heaven at the chiding of his father, being in wrath concerning his son whom divine Coronis bare in bright Lacereia at the mouth of Amyrus. And such is the story told among these men. But no desire for food or drink seized the heroes nor were their thoughts turned to joy. But they were sorely afflicted all day, heavy and faint at heart, with the noisome stench, hard to endure, which the streams of Eridanus sent forth from Phaethon still burning; and at night they heard the piercing lament of the daughters of Helios, wailing with shrill voice; and, as they lamented, their tears were borne on the water like drops of oil.

ἐκ δὲ τόθεν Ῥοδανοῖο βαθὺν ῥόον εἰσαπέβησαν,
ὃς τ' εἰς Ἡριδανὸν μετανίσσεται· ἄμμιγα δ' ὕδωρ
ἐν ξυνοχῇ βέβρυκε κυκώμενον. αὐτὰρ ὁ γαίης
630 ἐκ μυχάτης, ἵνα τ' εἰσὶ πύλαι καὶ ἐδέθλια Νυκτός,
ἔνθεν ἀπορνύμενος τῇ μὲν τ' ἐπερεύγεται ἀκτὰς
᾿Ωκεανοῦ, τῇ δ' αὖτε μετ' Ἴονίν ἄλα βάλλει,
τῇ δ' ἐπὶ Σαρδόνιον πέλαγος καὶ ἀπείρονα κόλπον
ἐπτα διὰ στομάτων ἶει ῥόον. ἐκ δ' ἄρα τοῖο
635 λίμνας εἰσέλασαν δυσχείμονας, αἳ τ' ἀνὰ Κελτῶν
ἤπειρον πέπτανται ἀθέσφατον· ἔνθα κεν οἶγε
ἄτῃ ἀεικελὴν πέλασαν. φέρε γάρ τις ἀπορρῶξ
κόλπον ἐς ᾿Ωκεανοῖο, τὸν οὐ προδαέντες ἔμελλον
εἰσβαλέειν, τόθεν οὐ κεν ὑπότροποι ἐξεσάωθην.
640 ἄλλ' Ἥρῃ σκοπέλοιο καθ' Ἐρκυνίου ἰάχησεν
οὐρανόθεν προθοροῦσα· φόβῳ δ' ἐτίναχθεν ἀντὶς

πάντες ὁμῶς· δεινὸν γὰρ ἐπὶ μέγας ἔβραχεν αἰθήρ.
ἂψ δὲ παλιντροπῶντο θεᾶς ὕπο, καὶ ῥ' ἐνόησαν
τὴν οἶμον, τῇπέρ τε καὶ ἔπλετο νόστος ἰοῦσιν.

645 δῆναίοι δ' ἄκτὰς ἀλιμυρέας εἰσαφίκοντο
Ἥρης ἐννεσίησι, δι' ἔθνεα μυρία Κελτῶν
καὶ Λιγύων περόωντες ἀδήιοι. ἀμφὶ γὰρ αἰνὴν
ἡέρα χεῦε θεὰ πάντ' ἥματα νισσομένοισιν.
μεσσότατον δ' ἄρα τοίγε διὰ στόμα νηὶ βαλόντες
650 Στοιχάδας εἰσαπέβαν νήσους σοοὶ εἵνεκα κούρων
Ζηνός· ὃ δὴ βωμοὶ τε καὶ ἱερὰ τοῖσι τέτυκται
ἔμπεδον· οὐδ' οἶον κείνης ἐπίκουροι ἔποντο
ναυτιλίας· Ζεὺς δέ σφι καὶ ὀψιγόνων πόρε νῆας.
Στοιχάδας αὖτε λιπόντες ἐς Αἰθαλίην ἐπέρησαν
655 νῆσον, ἵνα ψηφῖσιν ἀπωμόρξαντο καμόντες
ἰδρῶ ἄλις· χροίῃ δὲ κατ' αἰγιαλοῖο κέχυνται
εἵκελαι· ἐν δὲ σόλοι καὶ τεύχεα θέσκελα κείνων·
ἐν δὲ λιμὴν Ἀργῶος ἐπωνυμίην πεφάτισται.

[627] Thence they entered the deep stream of Rhodanus which flows into Eridanus; and where they meet there is a roar of mingling waters. Now that river, rising from the ends of the earth, where are the portals and mansions of Night, on one side bursts forth upon the beach of Ocean, at another pours into the Ionian sea, and on the third through seven mouths sends its stream to the Sardinian sea and its limitless bay. And from Rhodanus they entered stormy lakes, which spread throughout the Celtic mainland of wondrous size; and there they would have met with an inglorious calamity; for a certain branch of the river was bearing them towards a gulf of Ocean which in ignorance they were about to enter, and never would they have returned from there in safety. But Hera leaping forth from heaven pealed her cry from the Hercynian rock; and all together were shaken with fear of her cry; for terribly crashed the mighty firmament. And backward they turned by reason of the goddess, and noted the path by which their return was ordained. And after a long while they came to the beach of the surging sea by the devising of Hera, passing unharmed through countless tribes of the Celts and Ligyans. For round them the goddess poured a dread mist day by day as they fared on. And so, sailing through the midmost mouth, they reached the Stoechades islands in safety by the aid of the sons of Zeus; wherefore altars and sacred rites are established in their honour for ever; and not that sea-faring alone did they attend to succour; but Zeus granted to them the ships of future sailors too. Then leaving the Stoechades they passed on to the island Aethalia, where after their toil they wiped away with pebbles sweat in abundance; and pebbles like skin in colour are strewn on the beach; and there are their quoits and their wondrous armour; and there is the Argoan harbour called after them.

καρπαλίμως δ' ἐνθὲνδε διέξ' ἄλὸς οἶδμα νέοντο

660 Αὐσονίης ἀκτὰς Τυρσηνίδας εἰσορόωντες·
 ἶξον δ' Αἰαίης λιμένα κλυτόν· ἐκ δ' ἄρα νηὸς
 πείσματ' ἐπ' ἠϊόνων σχεδόθεν βάλον. ἔνθα δὲ Κίρκην
 εὖρον ἀλὸς νοτίδεσσι κάρη ἐπιφαιδρύνουσαν·
 τοῖον γάρ νυχίοισιν ὀνείρασιν ἐπτοίητο.
 665 αἵματί οἱ θάλαμοί τε καὶ ἔρκεα πάντα δόμοιο
 μύρεσθαι δόκεον· φλόξ δ' ἄθρόα φάρμακ' ἔδαπτεν,
 οἷσι πάρος ξείνους θέλγ' ἀνέρας, ὅστις ἵκοιτο·
 τὴν δ' αὐτὴ φονίῳ σβέσεν αἷματι πορφύρουσαν,
 χερσὶν ἀφυσσαμένη· λήξεν δ' ὀλοοῖο φόβοιο.
 670 τῷ καὶ ἐπιπλομένης ἡοῦς νοτίδεσσι θαλάσσης
 ἐγρομένη πλοκάμους τε καὶ εἵματα φαιδρύνεσκεν.
 θῆρες δ' οὐ θήρεσσιν ἑοικότες ὦμηστίῃσιν,
 οὐδὲ μὲν οὐδ' ἄνδρεσσιν ὁμὸν δέμας, ἄλλο δ' ἀπ' ἄλλων
 συμμιγέες μελέων, κίον ἄθρόοι, ἥύτε μῆλα
 675 ἐκ σταθμῶν ἄλῃς εἶσιν ὀπηδεύοντα νομῇ.
 τοίους καὶ προτέρης ἐξ ἰλύος ἐβλάστησε
 χθὼν αὐτὴ μικτοῖσιν ἀρηρεμένους μελέεσσιν,
 οὐπω διψαλέῳ μάλ' ὑπ' ἥερι πιληθεῖσα,
 οὐδέ πω ἄζαλέοιο βολαῖς τόσον ἠελίοιο
 680 ἱκμάδας αἰνυμένη· τὰ δ' ἐπὶ στίχας ἤγαγεν αἰὼν
 συγκρίνας· τὼς οἶγε φυὴν αἰδήλοισι ἔποντο.
 ἥρωας δ' ἔλε θάμβος ἀπείριτον· αἶψα δ' ἕκαστος
 Κίρκης εἷς τε φυὴν, εἷς τ' ὄμματα παπταίνοντες
 ῥεῖα κασιγνήτην φάσαν ἔμμεναι Αἰήταο.

[659] And quickly from there they passed through the sea, beholding the Tyrrhenian shores of Ausonia; and they came to the famous harbour of Aeaea, and from the ship they cast hawsers to the shore near at hand. And here they found Circe bathing her head in the salt sea-spray, for sorely had she been scared by visions of the night. With blood her chambers and all the walls of her palace seemed to be running, and flame was devouring all the magic herbs with which she used to bewitch strangers whoever came; and she herself with murderous blood quenched the glowing flame, drawing it up in her hands; and she ceased from deadly fear. Wherefore when morning came she rose, and with sea-spray was bathing her hair and her garments. And beasts, not resembling the beasts of the wild, nor yet like men in body, but with a medley of limbs, went in a throng, as sheep from the fold in multitudes follow the shepherd. Such creatures, compacted of various limbs, did each herself produce from the primeval slime when she had not yet grown solid beneath a rainless sky nor yet had received a drop of moisture from the rays of the scorching sun; but time combined these forms and marshalled them in their ranks; in such wise these monsters shapeless of form followed her. And exceeding wonder seized the heroes, and at once, as each gazed on the form and face of Circe, they readily guessed that she was the sister of Aeetes.

685 ἡ δ' ὅτε δὴ νυχίον ἀπὸ δείματα πέμψεν ὀνείρων,
 αὐτίκ' ἔπειτ' ἄψορρον ἀπέστιχε· τοὺς δ' ἅμ' ἔπεσθαι,
 χειρὶ καταρρέξασα, δολοφροσύνησιν ἄνωγεν.
 ἐνθ' ἦτοι πληθὺς μὲν ἐφετμαῖς Αἰσονίδαο
 μίμνεν ἀπληγέως· ὁ δ' ἐρύσσατο Κολχίδα κούρην.
 690 ἄμφω δ' ἐσπέσθην αὐτὴν ὁδόν, ἔστ' ἀφίκοντο
 Κίρκης ἐς μέγαρον· τοὺς δ' ἐν λιπαροῖσι κέλευεν
 ἦγε θρόνοις ἔξεσθαι, ἀμηχανέουσα κιόντων.
 τῷ δ' ἄνεω καὶ ἄναυδοι ἐφ' ἐστίῃ αἰζαντε
 ἴζανον, ἥ τε δίκη λυγροῖς ἰκέτησι τέτυκται,
 695 ἡ μὲν ἐπ' ἀμφοτέραις θεμένη χεῖρεσσι μέτωπα,
 αὐτὰρ ὁ κοπῆεν μέγα φάσγανον ἐν χθονὶ πῆξας,
 ᾧπέρ τ' Αἰήταο πᾶιν κτάνεν· οὐδέ ποτ' ὄσσε
 ἰθὺς ἐνὶ βλεφάροισιν ἀνέσχεθον. αὐτίκα δ' ἔγνω
 Κίρκη φύξιον οἶτον ἀλιτροσύνας τε φόνοιο.
 700 τῷ καὶ ὀπιζομένη Ζηνὸς θέμιν Ἴκεσίοιο,
 ὃς μέγα μὲν κοτέει, μέγα δ' ἀνδροφόνοισιν ἀρήγει,
 ῥέξε θυηπολὶν, οἷη τ' ἀπολυμαίνονται
 νηλειεῖς ἰκέται, ὅτ' ἐφέστιοι ἀντιώωσιν.
 πρῶτα μὲν ἀτρέπτοιο λυτήριον ἦγε φόνοιο
 705 τειναμένη καθύπερθε συὸς τέκος, ἧς ἔτι μαζοῖ
 πλήμυρον λοχίης ἐκ νηδύος, αἵματι χεῖρας
 τέγγεν, ἐπιμήγουσα δέρην· αὐτὶς δὲ καὶ ἄλλοις
 μείλισσεν χύτλοισι, καθάρσιον ἀγκαλέουσα
 Ζῆνα, παλαμναίων τιμήορον ἱκεσιᾶων.
 710 καὶ τὰ μὲν ἀθρόα πάντα δόμων ἐκ λύματ' ἔνεικαν
 νηιάδες πρόπολοι, ταῖ οἱ πόρσυνον ἕκαστα.
 ἡ δ' εἴσω πελάνους μεϊκτρά τε νηφαλίσιν
 καῖεν ἐπ' εὐχολῆσι παρέστιος, ὄφρα χόλοιο
 σμερδαλέας παύσειεν Ἑρινύας, ἡδὲ καὶ αὐτὸς
 715 εὐμειδὴς τε πέλοιτο καὶ ἦπιος ἀμφοτέροισιν,
 εἴτ' οὖν ὀθνεῖω μεμιασμένοι αἵματι χεῖρας,
 εἴτε καὶ ἐμφύλῳ προσκηδέες ἀντιώωσιν.

[685] Now when she had dismissed the fears of her nightly visions, straightway she fared backwards, and in her subtlety she bade the heroes follow, charming them on with her hand. Thereupon the host remained stedfast at the bidding of Aeson's son, but Jason drew with him the Colchian maid. And both followed the selfsame path till they reached the hall of Circe, and she in amaze at their coming bade them sit on brightly burnished seats. And they, quiet and silent, sped to the hearth and sat there, as is the wont of wretched suppliants. Medea hid her face in both her hands, but Jason fixed in the ground the mighty hilted sword with which he had slain Aeetes' son; nor did they raise their eyes to meet her look. And straightway Circe became aware of the doom of a suppliant and the guilt of murder. Wherefore in reverence for the ordinance of

Zeus, the god of suppliants, who is a god of wrath yet mightily aids slayers of men, she began to offer the sacrifice with which ruthless suppliants are cleansed from guilt when they approach the altar. First, to atone for the murder still unexpiated, she held above their heads the young of a sow whose dugs yet swelled from the fruit of the womb, and, severing its neck, sprinkled their hands with the blood; and again she made propitiation with other drink offerings, calling on Zeus the Cleanser, the protector of murder- stained suppliants. And all the defilements in a mass her attendants bore forth from the palace — the Naiad nymphs who ministered all things to her. And within, Circe, standing by the hearth, kept burning atonement-cakes without wine, praying the while that she might stay from their wrath the terrible Furies, and that Zeus himself might be propitious and gentle to them both, whether with hands stained by the blood of a stranger or, as kinsfolk, by the blood of a kinsman, they should implore his grace.

αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ μάλα πάντα πονήσατο, δὴ τότε ἔπειτα
εἶσεν ἐπὶ ξεστοῖσιν ἀναστήσασα θρόνοισιν,
720 καὶ δ' αὐτὴ πέλας ἵζεν ἐνωπαδῖς. αἶψα δὲ μύθῳ
χρειῶ ναυτιλὴν τε διακριδὸν ἐξερέεινεν.

ἡδ' ὀπόθεν μετὰ γαῖαν ἔην καὶ δώματ' ἰόντες
αὐτῶς ἰδρύνθησαν ἐφέστιοι. ἡ γὰρ ὀνείρων
μνηστὶς ἀεικελίῃ δύνεν φρένας ὀρμαίνουσιν:
725 ἔτο δ' αὖ κούρης ἐμφύλιον ἰδμεναι ὁμφὴν,
αὐτίχ' ὅπως ἐνόησεν ἀπ' οὐδεος ὅσσε βαλοῦσαν.
πᾶσα γὰρ Ἥελίου γενεὴ ἀρίδηντος ἰδέσθαι
ἦεν, ἐπεὶ βλεφάρων ἀποτηλόθι μαρμαρυγῆσιν
οἶόν τέ χρυσέην ἀντώπιον ἔσαν αἶγλην.

730 ἡ δ' ἄρα τῇ τὰ ἕκαστα διειρομένη κατελεξεν,
Κολχίδα γῆρυν ἰεῖσα, βαρύφρονος Αἰήταο
κούρη μελιχίως, ἡμὲν στόλον ἡδὲ κελεύθους
ἡρώων, ὅσα τ' ἀμφὶ θοοῖς ἐμόγησαν ἀέθλοις,
ὥς τε κασιγνήτης πολυκηδέος ἦλτε βουλαῖς,
735 ὥς τ' ἀπονόσφιν ἄλυξεν ὑπέρβια δαίματα πατρός
σὺν παισὶν Φρίξιοι: φόνον δ' ἀλέεινεν ἐνισπεῖν
Ἀψύρτου. τὴν δ' οὔτι νόῳ λάθην: ἀλλὰ καὶ ἔμπης
μυρομένην ἐλέαιρεν, ἔπος δ' ἐπὶ τοῖον ἔειπεν:
'σχετλίῃ, ἡ ῥα κακὸν καὶ ἀεικέα μήσαο νόστον.

740 ἔλπομαι οὐκ ἐπὶ δὴν σε βαρὺν χόλον Αἰήταο
ἐκφυγέειν: τάχα δ' εἴσι καὶ Ἑλλάδος ἡθεα γαίης
τισόμενος φόνον υἱός, ὅτ' ἄσχετα ἔργ' ἐτέλεσσας.
ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ οὖν ἰκέτις καὶ ὁμόγνιος ἔπλευ ἐμεῖο,
ἄλλο μὲν οὔτι κακὸν μητίσομαι ἐνθάδ' ἰούση:

745 ἔρχεο δ' ἐκ μεγάρων ξείνῳ συνοπηδὸς ἐοῦσα,
ὄντινα τοῦτον αἶστον ἀεῖραο πατρός ἀνευθεν:
μηδέ με γουνάσσειαι ἐφέστιος, οὐ γὰρ ἔγωγε

αἰνήσω βουλὰς τε σέθεν καὶ ἀεικέα φύζιν.’

[718] But when she had wrought all her task, then she raised them up and seated them on well polished seats, and herself sat near, face to face with them. And at once she asked them clearly of their business and their voyaging, and whence they had come to her land and palace, and had thus seated themselves as suppliants at her hearth. For in truth the hideous remembrance of her dreams entered her mind as she pondered; and she longed to hear the voice of the maiden, her kinswoman, as soon as she saw that she had raised her eyes from the ground. For all those of the race of Helios were plain to discern, since by the far flashing of their eyes they shot in front of them a gleam as of gold. So Medea told her all she asked — the daughter of Aeetes of the gloomy heart, speaking gently in the Colchian tongue, both of the quest and the journeyings of the heroes, and of their toils in the swift contests, and how she had sinned through the counsels of her much-sorrowing sister, and how with the sons of Phrixus she had fled afar from the tyrannous horrors of her father; but she shrank from telling of the murder of Apsyrtus. Yet she escaped not Circe’s ken; nevertheless, in spite of all, she pitied the weeping maiden, and spake thus: “Poor wretch, an evil and shameful return hast thou planned. Not for long, I ween, wilt thou escape the heavy wrath of Aeetes; but soon will he go even to the dwellings of Hellas to avenge the blood of his son, for intolerable are the deeds thou hast done. But since thou art my suppliant and my kinswoman, no further ill shall I devise against thee at thy coming; but begone from my halls, companioning the stranger, whosoever he be, this unknown one that thou hast taken in thy father’s despite; and kneel not to me at my hearth, for never will I approve thy counsels and thy shameful flight.”

ὥς φάτο: τὴν δ’ ἀμέγαρτον ἄχος λάβεν: ἀμφὶ δὲ πέπλον

⁷⁵⁰ ὀφθαλμοῖσι βαλοῦσα γόον χέεν, ὄφρα μιν ἦρωσ

χειρὸς ἐπισχόμενος μεγάρων ἐξῆγε θύραζε

δεῖματι παλλομένην: λεῖπον δ’ ἀπὸ δώματα Κίρκης.

[749] Thus she spake, and measureless anguish seized the maid; and over her eyes she cast her robe and poured forth a lamentation, until the hero took her by the hand and led her forth from the hall quivering with fear. So they left the home of Circe.

οὐδ’ ἄλοχον Κρονίδαο Διὸς λάθον: ἀλλὰ οἱ Ἴρις
πέφραδεν, εὗτ’ ἐνόησεν ἀπὸ μεγάροιο κιόντας.

⁷⁵⁵ αὐτὴ γάρ μιν ἄνωγε δοκευόμεν, ὅπποτε νῆα

στείχοιεν: τὸ καὶ αὖτις ἐποτρύνουσ’ ἀγόρευεν:

“Ἴρι φίλη, νῦν, εἴ ποτ’ ἐμὰς ἐτέλεσσας ἐφετμάς,

εἰ δ’ ἄγε λαιψηρῇσι μετοιχομένη πτερύγεσσιν,

δεῦρο θέτιν μοι ἄνωχθι μολεῖν ἄλδος ἐξανιοῦσαν.

⁷⁶⁰ κείνης γὰρ χρειώ με κιχάνεται. αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα

ἐλθεῖν εἰς ἀκτὰς, ὅθι τ’ ἄκμονες Ἥφαιστοιο

ἡλκαίοι στιβαρῆσιν ἀράσσονται τυπίδεσσιν:
εἰπὲ δὲ κοιμῆσαι φύσας πυρός, εἰσόκεν Ἀργῷ
τάσγε παρεξέλασθαι. ἀτὰρ καὶ ἐς Αἴολον ἔλθειν,
765 Αἴολον, ὅς τ' ἀνέμοις αἰθρηγενέεσσιν ἀνάσσει:
καὶ δὲ τῷ εἰπέμεναι τὸν ἑμὸν νόον, ὥς κεν ἀήτας
πάντας ἀπολλήξειεν ὑπ' ἡέρι, μηδὲ τις αὔρη
τρηχύνει πέλαγος: Ζεφύρου γε μὲν οὗρος ἀήτω,
ὄφρ' οἷγ' Ἀλκινόου Φαιηκίδα νῆσον ἴκωνται.'

[753] But they were not unmarked by the spouse of Zeus, son of Cronos; but Iris told her when she saw them faring from the hall. For Hera had bidden her watch what time they should come to the ship; so again she urged her and spake: "Dear Iris, now come, if ever thou hast fulfilled my bidding, hie thee away on light pinions, and bid Thetis arise from the sea and come hither. For need of her is come upon me. Then go to the sea-beaches where the bronze anvils of Hephaestus are smitten by sturdy hammers, and tell him to still the blasts of fire until Argo pass by them. Then go to Aeolus too, Aeolus who rules the winds, children of the clear sky; and to him also tell my purpose so that he may make all winds cease under heaven and no breeze may ruffle the sea; yet let the breath of the west wind blow until the heroes have reached the Phaeacian isle of Alcinous."

770 ὧς ἔφατ': αὐτίκα δ' Ἴρις ἀπ' Οὐλύμποιο θοροῦσα
τέμνε, τανυσσαμένη κοῦφα πτερά. δῦ δ' ἐνὶ πόντῳ
Αἰγαίῳ, τόθι πέρ τε δόμοι Νηρῆος ἔασιν.
πρώτην δ' εἰσαφίκανε Θέτιν, καὶ ἐπέφραδε μῦθον
Ἥρης ἐννεσίης, ὧρσέν τέ μιν εἰς ἔνεσθαι.

775 δεῦτερα δ' εἰς Ἥφαιστον ἐβήσατο: παῦσε δὲ τόνγε
ρίμφα σιδηρείων τυπίδων: ἔσχοντο δ' αὐτμῆς
αἰθαλέοι πρηστῆρες. ἀτὰρ τρίτον εἰσαφίκανεν
Αἴολον Ἰππότεω παῖδα κλυτόν. ὄφρα δὲ καὶ τῷ
ἀγγελίην φαμένη θαοὰ γούνατα παῦσεν ὁδοῖο,
780 τόφρα Θέτις Νηρῆα κασιγνήτας τε λιποῦσα
ἐξ ἁλὸς Οὐλυμπόνδε θεὰν μετεκίαθεν Ἥρην:
ἡ δέ μιν ἄσσον ἐοῖο παρεῖσέ τε, φαῖνέ τε μῦθον:
'κέκλυθι νῦν, Θέτι δῖα, τά τοι ἐπιέλδομ' ἐνισπεῖν.

οἴσθα μὲν, ὅσσον ἐμῆσιν ἐνὶ φρεσὶ τίεται ἥρως
785 Αἰσονίδης, οἱ δ' ἄλλοι ἀοσητῆρες ἀέθλου,
οἷως τέ σφ' ἐσάωσα διὰ πλαγκτὰς περόωντας
πέτρας, ἔνθα πάρος δειναὶ βρομέουσι θύελλαι,
κύματά τε σκληρῇσι περιβλύει σπιλάδεσσιν.
νῦν δὲ παρὰ Σκύλλης σκόπελον μέγαν ἡδὲ Χάρυβδιν
790 δεινὸν ἐρευγομένην δέχεται ὁδός. ἀλλὰ σε γάρ δὴ
ἐξέτι νηπυτίης αὐτὴ τρέφον ἡδ' ἀγάπησα
ἐξοχὸν ἀλλάων, αἳ τ' εἰν ἁλὶ ναιετάουσιν,

οὐνκεν οὐκ ἔτλης εὐνῇ Διὸς ἰεμένοιο
λέξασθαι. κείνῳ γὰρ αἰεὶ τάδε ἔργα μέμηλεν,
795 ἥ ἐ σὺν ἀθανάταις ἡ ἐ θνητῆσιν ἰαύειν.
ἀλλ' ἐμὲ αἰδομένη καὶ ἐνὶ φρεσὶ δειμαίνουσα,
ἡλεύω: ὁ δ' ἔπειτα πελώριον ὄρκον ὁμοσεν,
μῆποτέ σ' ἀθανάτοιο θεοῦ καλέεσθαι ἄκοιτιν.
ἔμπης δ' οὐ μεθίεσκεν ὀπιπεύων ἀέκουσαν,
800 εἰσότε οἱ πρέσβειρα Θέμις κατέλεξεν ἅπαντα,
ὥς δὴ τοι πέπρωται ἀμείνονα πατρὸς ἐοῖο
παῖδα τεκεῖν: τῷ καὶ σε λιλαιόμενος μεθέηκεν,
δείματι, μὴ τις ἐοῦ ἀντάξιος ἄλλος ἀνάσσοι
ἀθανάτων, ἀλλ' αἰὲν ἐὼν κράτος εἰρύοιτο.
805 αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ τὸν ἄριστον ἐπιχθονίων πόσιν εἶναι
δῶκά τοι, ὄφρα γάμου θυμηδὸς ἀντιάσειας,
τέκνα τε φυτύσαιο: θεοὺς δ' ἐς δαῖτ' ἐκάλεσσα
πάντας ὁμῶς: αὐτὴ δὲ σέλας χεῖρεσσιν ἀνέσχον
νυμφίδιον, κείνης ἀγανόφρονος εἵνεκα τιμῆς.
810 ἀλλ' ἄγε καὶ τινά τοι νημερτέα μῦθον ἐνίσψω.
εὗτ' ἂν ἐς Ἥλύσιον πεδίον τεὸς υἱὸς ἵκηται,
ὄν δὴ νῦν Χείρωνος ἐν ἥθεσι Κενταύριοιο
νηιάδες κομέουσι τεοῦ λίπτοντα γάλακτος,
χρεῖώ μιν κούρης πόσιν ἔμμεναι Αἰήταο
815 Μηδείης: σὺ δ' ἄρηγε νυῶ ἐκυρή περ ἐοῦσα,
ἡδ' αὐτῷ Πηλῆϊ. τί τοι χόλος ἐστήρικται;
ἄασθη. καὶ γάρ τε θεοὺς ἐπινίσσεται ἄτη.
ναὶ μὲν ἐφημοσύνησιν ἐμαῖς Ἥφαιστον οἶω
λωφῆσειν πρήσοντα πυρὸς μένος, Ἴπποτάδην δὲ
820 Αἴολον ὠκείας ἀνέμων ἄικας ἐρύξειν,
νόσφιν ἐνσταθέος ζεφύρου, τείως κεν ἵκωνται
Φαιήκων λιμένας: σὺ δ' ἀκηδέα μῆδεο νόστον.
δεῖμα δέ τοι πέτραι καὶ ὑπέρβια κύματ' ἔασιν
μοῦνον, ἃ κεν τρέψαιο κασιγνήτησι σὺν ἄλλαις.
825 μὴδὲ σύγ' ἡ ἐ Χάρυβδιν ἀμηχανέοντας ἐάσῃς
ἐσβαλέειν, μὴ πάντας ἀναβρόζασα φέρῃσιν,
ἡ ἐ παρὰ Σκύλλης στυγερὸν κευθμῶνα νέεσθαι,
Σκύλλης Αὐσονίης ὀλοόφρονος, ἣν τέκε Φόρκυι
νυκτιπόλος Ἑκάτη, τήν τε κλείουσι Κράταιν,
830 μὴ πως σμερδαλέῃσιν ἐπαῖζασα γένυσσι
λεκτοὺς ἡρώων δηλήσεται. ἀλλ' ἔχε νῆα
κεῖσ', ὅθι περ τυτθὴ γε παραιβάσις ἔσσειτ' ὀλέθρου.'

[770] So she spake, and straightway Iris leapt down from Olympus and cleft her way, with light wings outspread. And she plunged into the Aegean Sea, where is the dwelling of Nereus. And she came to Thetis first and, by the promptings of Hera, told her tale and roused her to go to the goddess. Next she came to

Hephaestus, and quickly made him cease from the clang of his iron hammers; and the smoke-grimed bellows were stayed from their blast. And thirdly she came to Aeolus, the famous son of Hippotas. And when she had given her message to him also and rested her swift knees from her course, then Thetis leaving Nereus and her sisters had come from the sea to Olympus to the goddess Hera; and the goddess made her sit by her side and uttered her word: "Hearken now, lady Thetis, to what I am eager to tell thee. Thou knowest how honoured in my heart is the hero, Aeson's son, and the others that have helped him in the contest, and how I saved them when they passed between the Wandering rocks, where roar terrible storms of fire and the waves foam round the rugged reefs. And now past the mighty rock of Scylla and Charybdis horribly belching, a course awaits them. But thee indeed from thy infancy did I tend with my own hands and love beyond all others that dwell in the salt sea because thou didst refuse to share the couch of Zeus, for all his desire. For to him such deeds are ever dear, to embrace either goddesses or mortal women. But in reverence for me and with fear in thy heart thou didst shrink from his love; and he then swore a mighty oath that thou shouldst never be called the bride of an immortal god. Yet he ceased not from spying thee against thy will, until reverend Themis declared to him the whole truth, how that it was thy fate to bear a son mightier than his sire; wherefore he gave thee up, for all his desire, fearing lest another should be his match and rule the immortals, and in order that he might ever hold his own dominion. But I gave thee the best of the sons of earth to be thy husband, that thou mightest find a marriage dear to thy heart and bear children; and I summoned to the feast the gods, one and all. And with my own hand I raised the bridal torch, in return for the kindly honour thou didst pay me. But come, let me tell a tale that erreth not. When thy son shall come to the Elysian plain, he whom now in the home of Cheiron the Centaur water-nymphs are tending, though he still craves thy mother milk, it is fated that he be the husband of Medea, Aeetes' daughter; do thou aid thy daughter-in-law as a mother-in-law should, and aid Peleus himself. Why is thy wrath so steadfast? He was blinded by folly. For blindness comes even upon the gods. Surely at my behest I deem that Hephaestus will cease from kindling the fury of his flame, and that Aeolus, son of Hippotas, will check his swift rushing winds, all but the steady west wind, until they reach the havens of the Phaeacians; do thou devise a return without bane. The rocks and the tyrannous waves are my fear, they alone, and them thou canst foil with thy sisters' aid. And let them not fall in their helplessness into Charybdis lest she swallow them at one gulp, or approach the hideous lair of Scylla, Ausonian Scylla the deadly, whom night-wandering Hecate, who is called Crataeis, bare to Phoreys, lest swooping upon them with her horrible jaws she destroy the chiefest of the heroes. But guide their ship in the course where there shall be still a hair's breadth escape from destruction."

ὥς φάτο· τὴν δὲ Θέτις τοίῳ προσελέξατο μύθῳ·
‘εἰ μὲν δὴ μαλεροῖο πυρὸς μένος ἦδ’ ὀύελλαι

835 ζαχρηεῖς λήξουσιν ἐτήτυμον, ἧ τ' ἂν ἔγωγε
θαρσαλέη φαίην, καὶ κύματος ἀντιόωντος
νῆα σαωσέμεναι, ζεφύρου λίγα κινυμένοιο.
ἀλλ' ὥρη δολιχὴν τε καὶ ἄσπετον οἶμον ὀδεύειν,
ὄφρα κασιγνήτας μετελεύσομαι, αἶ μοι ἄρωγοι
840 ἔσσονται, καὶ νηὸς ὅθι πρυμνήσι' ἀνῆπται,
ὥς κεν ὑπηῶοι μνησαίατο νόστον ἐλέσθαι.'

[833] Thus she spake, and Thetis answered with these words: “If the fury of the ravening flame and the stormy winds cease in very deed, surely will I promise boldly to save the ship, even though the waves bar the way, if only the west wind blows fresh and clear. But it is time to fare on a long and measureless path, in quest of my sisters who will aid me, and to the spot where the ship’s hawsers are fastened, that at early dawn the heroes may take thought to win their home-return.”

ἦ, καὶ ἀναΐξασα κατ’ αἰθέρος ἔμπεσε δίναις
κυανέου πόντοιο: κάλει δ’ ἐπαμυνέμεν ἄλλας
αὐτοκασιγνήτας Νηρηίδας: αἱ δ’ αἰοῦσαι
845 ἦντεον ἀλλήλησι: Θέτις δ’ ἀγόρευεν ἐφετμὰς
Ἥρης: αἶψα δ’ ἴαλλε μετ’ Αὐσονίην ἄλα πάσας.
αὐτὴ δ’ ὠκυτὲρ ἁμαρύγματος ἡὲ βολάων
ἡελίου, ὅτ’ ἄνεισι περαΐης ὑπόθι γαίης,
σεύατ’ ἵμεν λαιψηρὰ δι’ ὕδατος, ἔστ’ ἀφίκανεν
850 ἀκτὴν Αἰαίην Τυρσηνίδος ἡπείροιο.
τοὺς δ’ εὗρεν παρὰ νηὶ σόλῳ ῥιπῆσι τ’ οἰστῶν
τερπομένους: ἡ δ’ ἄσπον ὀρεξαμένη χερὸς ἄκρης
Αἰακίδεω Πηλῆος: ὁ γάρ ῥά οἱ ἦεν ἀκοίτης:
οὐδέ τις εἰσιδέειν δύνατ’ ἔμπεδον, ἀλλ’ ἄρα τῷγε
855 οἶῳ ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἐείσατο, φώνησέν τε:
‘μηκέτι νῦν ἀκταῖς Τυρσηνίσιν ἦσθε μένοντες,
ἡῶθεν δὲ θοῆς πρυμνήσια λύετε νηός,
Ἥρη πειθόμενοι ἐπαρηγόني. τῆς γὰρ ἐφετμῆς
πασσυδίῃ κοῦραι Νηρηίδες ἀντιόωσιν,
860 νῆα διὲκ πέτρας, αἱ τε Πλαγκταὶ καλέονται,
ῥυσόμεναι. κείνη γὰρ ἐναΐσιμος ὕμμι κέλευθος.
ἀλλὰ σὺ μὴ τῷ ἐμὸν δείξης δέμας, εὖτ’ ἂν ἴδῃαι
ἀντομένην σὺν τῇσι: νόῳ δ’ ἔχε, μὴ με χολώσῃς
πλεῖον ἔτ’, ἢ τὸ πάροιθεν ἀπληγέως ἐχόλωσας.’

[842] She spake, and darting down from the sky fell amid the eddies of the dark blue sea; and she called to aid her the rest of the Nereids, her own sisters; and they heard her and gathered together; and Thetis declared to them Hera’s behests, and quickly sped them all on their way to the Ausonian sea. And herself, swifter than the flash of an eye or the shafts of the sun, when it rises upwards from a far-distant land, hastened swiftly through the sea, until she reached the Aeaeon beach of the Tyrrhenian mainland. And the heroes she found by the ship taking their pastime with quoits and shooting of arrows; and she drew near and just touched the hand of Aeaeus’ son Peleus, for he was her husband; nor could anyone see her clearly, but she appeared to his eyes alone, and thus addressed him: “No longer now must ye stay sitting on the Tyrrhenian beach, but at dawn loosen the hawsers of your swift ship, in

obedience to Hera, your helper. For at her behest the maiden daughters of Nereus have met together to draw your ship through the midst of the rocks which are called Planctae, for that is your destined path. But do thou show my person to no one, when thou seest us come to meet time, but keep it secret in thy mind, lest thou anger me still more than thou didst anger me before so recklessly.”

865 ἦ, καὶ ἔπειτ' αἰδήλος ἐδύσατο βένθεα πόντου:
τὸν δ' ἄχος αἰνὸν ἔτυπεν, ἐπεὶ πάρος οὐκέτ' ἰοῦσαν
ἔδρακεν, ἐξότε πρῶτα λίπεν θάλαμόν τε καὶ εὐνὴν
χωσαμένη Ἀχιλῆος ἀγανοῦ νηπιάχοντος.

ἡ μὲν γὰρ βροτέας αἰεὶ περὶ σάρκας ἔδαιεν
870 νύκτα διὰ μέσσην φλογμῷ πυρός: ἥματα δ' αὖτε
ἀμβροσίῃ χρίσκε τέρην δέμας, ὄφρα πέλοιτο
ἀθάνατος, καὶ οἱ στυγερὸν χροῖ γῆρας ἀλάλκοι.

αὐτὰρ ὃγ' ἐξ εὐνῆς ἀνεπάλμενος εἰσενόησεν
παῖδα φίλον σπαίροντα διὰ φλογός: ἦκε δ' αὐτήν

875 σμερδαλέην ἐσιδὼν, μέγα νήπιος: ἡ δ' αἶουσα
τὸν μὲν ἄρ' ἀρπάγδην χαμάδις βάλε κεκληγῶτα,
αὐτὴ δὲ πνοιῇ ἰκέλη δέμας, ἥντ' ὄνειρος,

βῆ ῥ' ἵμεν ἐκ μεγάροιο θοῶς, καὶ ἐσήλατο πόντον
χωσαμένη: μετὰ δ' οὔτι παλίσσυτος ἵκετ' ὀπίσσω.

880 τῷ μιν ἀμηχανίῃ δῆσεν φρένας: ἀλλὰ καὶ ἔμπης
πᾶσαν ἐφημοσύνην Θέτιδος μετέειπεν ἑταίροις.

οἱ δ' ἄρα μεσσηγὺς λῆξαν καὶ ἔπαυσαν ἀέθλους
ἔσσυμένως, δόρπον τε χαμεύνας τ' ἀμφεπένοντο,
τῆς ἐνὶ δαισάμενοι νύκτ' ἄεσαν, ὥς τὸ πάροιθεν.

[865] She spake, and vanished into the depths of the sea; but sharp pain smote Peleus, for never before had he seen her come, since first she left her bridal chamber and bed in anger, on account of noble Achilles, then a babe. For she ever encompassed the child's mortal flesh in the night with the flame of fire; and day by day she anointed with ambrosia his tender frame, so that he might become immortal and that she might keep off from his body loathsome old age. But Peleus leapt up from his bed and saw his dear son gasping in the flame; and at the sight he uttered a terrible cry, fool that he was; and she heard it, and catching up the child threw him screaming to the ground, and herself like a breath of wind passed swiftly from the hall as a dream and leapt into the sea, exceeding wroth, and thereafter returned not again. Wherefore blank amazement fettered his soul; nevertheless he declared to his comrades all the bidding of Thetis. And they broke off in the midst and hurriedly ceased their contests, and prepared their meal and earth-strewn beds, whereon after supper they slept through the night as aforetime.

885 ἦμος δ' ἄκρον ἔβαλλε φασφόρος οὐρανὸν Ἡώς,

δὴ τότε λαιψηροῖο κατηλυσίῃ ζεφύροιο
 βαῖνον ἐπὶ κληῖδας ἀπὸ χθονός· ἐκ δὲ βυθοῖο
 εὐναίας εἴλκον περιγηθέες ἄλλα τε πάντα
 ἄρμενα μηρύοντο κατὰ χρέος· ὕψι δὲ λαῖφος
 890 εἴρυσσαν τανύσαντες ἐν ἱμάντεσσι κεραίης.
 νῆα δ' εὐκραῆς ἄνεμος φέρεν. αἶψα δὲ νῆσον
 καλήν, Ἀνθεμόεσσαν ἐσέδρακον, ἔνθα λίγειαι
 Σειρῆνες σίνοντ' Ἀχελωίδες ἠδείησιν
 θέλγουσαι μολπῇσιν, ὅτις παρὰ πείσμα βάλοιτο.
 895 τὰς μὲν ἄρ' εὐειδῆς Ἀχελωῖω εὐνηθεῖσα
 γείνατο Τερψιχόρῃ, Μουσέων μία· καί ποτε Διοῦς
 θυγατέρ' ἰφθίμην ἀδμήτ' ἔτι πορσαίνεσκον
 ἄμμιγα μελπόμεναι· τότε δ' ἄλλο μὲν οἰωνοῖσιν,
 ἄλλο δὲ παρθενικῆς ἐναλίγκιαι ἔσκον ιδέσθαι.
 900 αἰεὶ δ' εὐόρμου δεδοκημέναι ἐκ περιωπῆς
 ἧ θαμὰ δὴ πολέων μελιγδέα νόστον ἔλοντο,
 τηκεδόνι φθινύθουσαι· ἀπηλεγέως δ' ἄρα καὶ τοῖς
 ἔεσαν ἐκ στομάτων ὅπα λείριον. οἱ δ' ἀπὸ νηὸς
 ἤδη πείσματ' ἔμελλον ἐπ' ἠιόνεσσι βαλέσθαι,
 905 εἰ μὴ ἄρ' Οἰάγροιο πάϊς Θρηϊκίος Ὀρφεὺς
 Βιστονίην ἐνὶ χερσὶν αἰῖς φόρμιγγα τανύσσας
 κραιπνὸν ἐντροχάλοιο μέλος κανάχησεν αἰοιδῆς,
 ὄφρ' ἄμυδις κλονέοντος ἐπιβρομέωνται ἀκουαὶ
 κρεγμῶ· παρθενικὴν δ' ἐνοπὴν ἐβίησατο φόρμιγξ.
 910 νῆα δ' ὁμοῦ ζέφυρός τε καὶ ἠχῆεν φέρε κῦμα
 πρυμνόθεν ὀρνύμενον· ταὶ δ' ἄκριτον ἔεσαν αὐδῆν.
 ἀλλὰ καὶ ὣς Τελέοντος ἐὺς πάϊς, οἷος ἐταῖρων
 προφθάμενος, ξεστοῖο κατὰ ζυγοῦ ἔνθορε πόντῳ
 Βούτης, Σειρήνων λιγυρῇ ὅπῃ θυμὸν ἰανθείς·
 915 νῆχε δὲ πορφυρέοιο δι' οἷδατος, ὄφρ' ἐπιβαίῃ,
 σχέτλιος· ἧ τέ οἱ αἶψα καταυτόθι νόστον ἀπηύρων,
 ἀλλὰ μιν οἰκτεῖρασα θεὰ Ἑρκεος μεδέουσα
 Κύπρις ἔτ' ἐν δίναις ἀνέρέψατο, καὶ ῥ' ἐσάωσεν
 πρόφρων ἀντομένη Λιλυβηίδα ναιέμεν ἄκρην.
 920 οἱ δ' ἄχεϊ σχόμενοι τὰς μὲν λίπον, ἄλλα δ' ὅπαζον
 κύντερα μιζοδίησιν ἄλως ραιστήρια νηῶν.

[885] Now when dawn the light-bringer was touching the edge of heaven, then at the coming of the swift west wind they went to their thwarts from the land; and gladly did they draw up the anchors from the deep and made the tackling ready in due order; and above spread the sail, stretching it taut with the sheets from the yard-arm. And a fresh breeze wafted the ship on. And soon they saw a fair island, Anthemoessa, where the clear-voiced Sirens, daughters of Achelous, used to beguile with their sweet songs whoever cast anchor there, and then destroy him. Them lovely Terpsichore, one of the Muses, bare,

united with Achelous; and once they tended Demeter's noble daughter still unwed, and sang to her in chorus; and at that time they were fashioned in part like birds and in part like maidens to behold. And ever on the watch from their place of prospect with its fair haven, often from many had they taken away their sweet return, consuming them with wasting desire; and suddenly to the heroes, too, they sent forth from their lips a lily-like voice. And they were already about to cast from the ship the hawsers to the shore, had not Thracian Orpheus, son of Oeagrus, stringing in his hands his Bistonian lyre, rung forth the hasty snatch of a rippling melody so that their ears might be filled with the sound of his twanging; and the lyre overcame the maidens' voice. And the west wind and the sounding wave rushing astern bore the ship on; and the Sirens kept uttering their ceaseless song. But even so the goodly son of Teleon alone of the comrades leapt before them all from the polished bench into the sea, even Butes, his soul melted by the clear ringing voice of the Sirens; and he swam through the dark surge to mount the beach, poor wretch. Quickly would they have robbed him of his return then and there, but the goddess that rules Eryx, Cypris, in pity snatched him away, while yet in the eddies, and graciously meeting him saved him to dwell on the Lilybean height. And the heroes, seized by anguish, left the Sirens, but other perils still worse, destructive to ships, awaited them in the meeting-place of the seas.

τῇ μὲν γὰρ Σκύλλης λισσὴ προυφαίνεταιο πέτρῃ·
τῇ δ' ἄμοτον βοάσκειν ἀναβλύζουσα Χάρυβδις·
ἄλλοθι δὲ Πλαγκταὶ μεγάλῳ ὑπὸ κύματι πέτραι
925 ῥόχθεον, ἦχι πάροιθεν ἀπέπτυνεν αἰθομένη φλόξ
ἄκρων ἐκ σκοπέλων, πυριθαλπέος ὑψόθι πέτρης,
καπνῷ δ' ἀγλυόεις αἰθήρ πέλεν, οὐδέ κεν αὐγάς
ἔδρακες ἠελίοιο. τότε αὖ λήξαντος ἀπ' ἔργων
Ἥφαίστου θερμὴν ἔτι κήκιε πόντος αὐτμήν.
930 ἔνθα σφιν κοῦραι Νηρηίδες ἄλλοθεν ἄλλαι
ἦντεον· ἡ δ' ὅπιθεν πτέρυγος θίγε πηδαλίοιο
διὰ Θέτις, Πλαγκτῆσιν ἐνὶ σπιλάδεσσιν ἐρύσσαι.
ὥς δ' ὁπότεν δελφῖνες ὑπὲξ ἁλὸς εὐδιόωντες
σπερχομένην ἀγελῆδὸν ἐλίσσονται περὶ νῆα,
935 ἄλλοτε μὲν προπάροιθεν ὀρώμενοι, ἄλλοτ' ὀπισθεν,
ἄλλοτε παρβολάδην, ναύτησι δὲ χάρμα τέτυκται·
ὥς αἰ ὑπεκπροθέουσαι ἐπήτριμοι εἰλίσσοντο
Ἀργῶν περὶ νηὶ, Θέτις δ' ἴθυνε κέλευθον.
καὶ ῥ' ὅτε δὴ Πλαγκτῆσιν ἐνιχρίμψεσθαι ἔμελλον,
940 αὐτίκ' ἀνασχόμεναι λευκοῖς ἐπὶ γούνασι πέζας,
ὑψοῦ ἐπ' αὐτῶν σπιλάδων καὶ κύματος ἀγῆς
ῥόοντ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα διασταδὸν ἀλλήλησιν.
τὴν δὲ παρηγορίην κόπτεν ῥόος· ἀμφὶ δὲ κύμα
λάβρον ἀειρόμενον πέτραις ἐπικαχλάζεσκεν,
945 αἱ θ' ὅτε μὲν κρημνοῖς ἐναλίγκια ἡέρι κύρον,

ἄλλοτε δὲ βρύχαι νεάτω ὑπὸ πυθμένι πόντου
 ἡρήρειν, τὸ δὲ πολλὸν ὑπείρεχεν ἄγριον οἶδμα.
 αἱ δ' ὥστ' ἡμαθόεντος ἐπισχεδὸν αἰγιαλοῖο
 παρθενικαί, δίχα κόλπον ἐπ' ἰζύας εἰλίξασαι
 950 σφαίρη ἄθύρουσιν περιηγεί: αἱ μὲν ἔπειτα
 ἄλλη ὑπ' ἐξ ἄλλης δέχεται καὶ ἐς ἡέρα πέμπει
 ὕψι μεταχρονίην: ἡ δ' οὐποτε πίλνεται οὔδαι:
 ὧς αἱ νῆα θεουσαν ἀμοιβαδὶς ἄλλοθεν ἄλλη
 πέμπει διηερίην ἐπὶ κύμασιν, αἰὲν ἄπωθεν
 955 πετράων: περὶ δέ σφιν ἐρευρόμενον ζέεν ὕδωρ.
 τὰς δὲ καὶ αὐτὸς ἄναξ κορυφῆς ἐπὶ λισσάδος ἄκρης
 ὀρθὸς ἐπὶ στελεῇ τυπίδος βαρὺν ὦμον ἐρείσας
 Ἥφαιστος θηεῖτο, καὶ αἰγλήεντος ὑπερθεν
 οὐρανοῦ ἐστηνῖα Διὸς δάμαρ: ἀμφὶ δ' Ἀθήνῃ
 960 βάλλε χέρας, τοῖόν μιν ἔχεν δέος εἰσορόωσαν.
 ὅσση δ' εἰαρινοῦ μηκύνεται ἡματος αἶσα,
 τοσσάτιον μογέεσκον ἐπὶ χρόνον, ὀχλίζουσαι
 νῆα διὲκ πέτρας πολυηχέας: οἱ δ' ἀνέμοιο
 αὐτὶς ἐπαυρόμενοι προτέρω θεόν: ὧκα δ' ἄμειβον
 965 Θρινακίης λειμῶνα, βοῶν τροφὸν Ἥελίοιο.
 ἔνθ' αἱ μὲν κατὰ βένθος ἀλίγκιαι αἰθυίησιν
 δῶνον, ἐπεὶ ῥ' ἀλόχοιο Διὸς πόρσυνον ἐφετμάς.
 τοὺς δ' ἄμυδις βληχὴ τε δι' ἡέρος ἵκετο μῆλων,
 μυκηθμός τε βοῶν αὐτοσχεδὸν οὔατ' ἔβαλλεν.
 970 καὶ τὰ μὲν ἐρσήεντα κατὰ δρία ποιμαίνεσκεν
 ὀπλοτέρη Φαέθουσα θυγατρῶν Ἥελίοιο,
 ἀργύρεον χαῖον παλάμη ἐνὶ πηχύνουσα:
 Λαμπετὴ δ' ἐπὶ βουσὶν ὀρειχάλκοιο φαεινοῦ
 πάλλεν ὀπηδεύουσα καλαύροπα. τὰς δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ
 975 βοσκομένας ποταμοῖο παρ' ὕδασιν εἰσορόωντο
 ἄμ πεδίον καὶ ἔλος λειμώνιον: οὐδέ τις ἦεν
 κυανὴ μετὰ τῇσι δέμας, πᾶσαι δὲ γάλακτι
 εἰδόμεναι, χρυσέοισι κεράσσι κυδιάασκον.
 καὶ μὲν τὰς παράμειβον ἐπ' ἡματι: νυκτὶ δ' ἰούση
 980 πείρον ἄλὸς μέγα λαῖτμα κεχαρμένοι, ὄφρα καὶ αὐτὶς
 Ἥως ἡριγενὴς φέγγος βάλε νισσομένοισιν.

[922] For on one side appeared the smooth rock of Scylla; on the other Charybdis ceaselessly spouted and roared; in another part the Wandering rocks were booming beneath the mighty surge, where before the burning flame spurted forth from the top of the crags, above the rock glowing with fire, and the air was misty with smoke, nor could you have seen the sun's light. Then, though Hephaestus had ceased from his toils, the sea was still sending up a warm vapour. Hereupon on this side and on that the daughters of Nereus met them; and behind, lady Thetis set her hand to the rudder-blade, to

guide them amid the Wandering rocks. And as when in fair weather herds of dolphins come up from the depths and sport in circles round a ship as it speeds along, now seen in front, now behind, now again at the side and delight comes to the sailors; so the Nereids darted upward and circled in their ranks round the ship Argo, while Thetis guided its course. And when they were about to touch the Wandering rocks, straightway they raised the edge of their garments over their snow-white knees, and aloft, on the very rocks and where the waves broke, they hurried along on this side and on that apart from one another. And the ship was raised aloft as the current smote her, and all around the furious wave mounting up broke over the rocks, which at one time touched the sky like towering crags, at another, down in the depths, were fixed fast at the bottom of the sea and the fierce waves poured over them in floods. And the Nereids, even as maidens near some sandy beach roll their garments up to their waists out of their way and sport with a shapely-rounded ball; then they catch it one from another and send it high into the air; and it never touches the ground; so they in turn one from another sent the ship through the air over the waves, as it sped on ever away from the rocks; and round them the water spouted and foamed. And lord Hephaestus himself standing on the summit of a smooth rock and resting his massy shoulder on the handle of his hammer, beheld them, and the spouse of Zeus beheld them as she stood above the gleaming heaven; and she threw her arms round Athena, such fear seized her as she gazed. And as long as the space of a day is lengthened out in springtime, so long a time did they toil, heaving the ship between the loud-echoing rocks; then again the heroes caught the wind and sped onward; and swiftly they passed the mead of Thrinacia, where the kine of Helios fed. There the nymphs, like sea-mews, plunged beneath the depths, when they had fulfilled the behests of the spouse of Zeus. And at the same time the bleating of sheep came to the heroes through the mist and the lowing of kine, near at hand, smote their ears. And over the dewy leas Phaethusa, the youngest of the daughters of Helios, tended the sheep, bearing in her hand a silver crook; while Lampetia, herding the kine, wielded a staff of glowing orichalcum as she followed. These kine the heroes saw feeding by the river's stream, over the plain and the water-meadow; not one of them was dark in hue but all were white as milk and glorying in their horns of gold. So they passed them by in the day-time, and when night came on they were cleaving a great sea-gulf, rejoicing, until again early rising dawn threw light upon their course.

ἔστι δέ τις πορθμοῖο παροιτέρη Ἴονιοιο
ἀμφιλαφῆς πείρα Κεραυνίη εἰν ἅλι νῆσος,
ἧ ὕπο δὴ κεῖσθαι δρέπανον φάτις — ἴλατε Μοῦσαι,
985 οὐκ ἐθέλων ἐνέπω προτέρων ἔπος — ᾧ ἀπὸ πατρὸς
μήδεα νηλειῶς ἔταμεν Κρόνος; οἱ δέ ἐ Διοῦς
κλείουσι χθονίης καλαμητόμον ἔμμεναι ἄρπην.
Διὼ γὰρ κείνῃ ἐνὶ δὴ ποτε νάσσατο γαίῃ,
Τιτῆνας δ' ἔδαε στάχυν ὄμπνιον ἀμήσασθαι,

990 Μάρκρινδᾱ φιλαμένη. Δρεπάνῃ τόθεν ἐκλήϊσται
 οὔνομα, Φαίῃκων ἱερὴ τροφός· ὧς δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ
 αἵματος Οὐρανίῳ γένος Φαίῃκες ἔασιν.
 τοὺς Ἀργῶ πολέεσσιν ἐνισχομένη καμάτοισιν
 Θρινᾱκίης αὔρης ἵκετ' ἐξ ἁλός· οἱ δ' ἀγανῆσιν
 995 Ἀλκίνοος λαοὶ τε θυηπολῆσιν ἰόντας
 δειδέχατ' ἀσπασίως· ἐπὶ δὲ σφισι καγχαλάασκεν
 πᾶσα πόλις· φαίης κεν ἐοῖς ἐπὶ παισὶ γάνυσθαι.
 καὶ δ' αὐτοὶ ἥρωες ἀνὰ πληθὺν κεχάροντο,
 τῷ ἵκελοι, οἷόν τε μεσαιτάτῃ ἐμβεβαῶτες
 1000 Αἰμονίῃ· μέλλον δὲ βοῇ ἔνι θωρήξεσθαι·
 ὧδε μάλ' ἀγχίμολον στρατὸς ἄσπετος ἐξεφάνθη
 Κόλχων, οἱ Πόντοιο κατὰ στόμα καὶ διὰ πέτρας
 Κυανέας μαστῆρες ἀριστήων ἐπέρησαν.
 Μῆδειαν δ' ἔξαιτον ἐοῦ ἐς πατρός ἄγεσθαι
 1005 ἔεντ' ἀπροφάτως, ἥε στονόεσσαν αὐτὴν
 νομήσειν χαλεπῇσιν ὁμόκλεον ἀτροπίησιν
 αὐθὶ τε καὶ μετέπειτα σὺν Αἰήταο κελεύθῳ.
 ἀλλὰ σφεας κατέρυκεν ἐπειγομένους πολέμοιο
 κρείων Ἀλκίνοος. λελίητο γὰρ ἀμφοτέροισιν
 1010 δηιοτῆτος ἄνευθεν ὑπέρβια νείκεα λῦσαι.
 κούρη δ' οὐλομένη ὑπὸ δείματι πολλὰ μὲν αὐτοὺς
 Αἰσονίδεω ἐτάρους μειλίσσετο, πολλὰ δὲ χερσὶν
 Ἀρήτης γούνων ἀλόχου θίγεν Ἀλκινόοιο·
 'γουνούμαι, βασιλεία· σὺ δ' ἴλαθι, μηδέ με Κόλχοις
 1015 ἐκδῶης ᾧ πατρὶ κομιζέμεν, εἴ νυ καὶ αὐτὴ
 ἀνθρώπων γενεῆς μία φέρβει, οἷσιν ἐς ἄτην
 ὠκύτατος κούφησι θέει νόος ἀμπλακίησιν.
 ὥς ἐμοὶ ἐκ πυκινῶν ἔπεσον φρένες, οὐ μὲν ἔκητι
 μαργουσύνῃς. ἴστω δ' ἱερὸν φάος Ἥελίοιο,
 1020 ἴστω νυκτιπόλου Περσηίδος ὄργια κούρης,
 μὴ μὲν ἐγὼν ἐθέλουσα σὺν ἀνδράσιν ἄλλοδαποῖσιν
 κείθεν ἀφορμήθην· στυγερὸν δέ με τάρβος ἔπεισεν
 τῆσγε φυγῆς μνήσασθαι, ὅτ' ἤλιτον· οὐδέ τις ἄλλη
 μῆτις ἦν. ἔτι μοι μήτρη μένει, ὥς ἐνὶ πατρός
 1025 δώμασιν, ἄχραντος καὶ ἀκήρατος. ἀλλ' ἐλέαιρε,
 πότνα, τέον τε πόσιν μειλίσσεο· σοὶ δ' ὀπάσειαν
 ἀθάνατοι βίοτόν τε τελεσφόρον ἀγλαΐην τε
 καὶ παῖδας καὶ κῦδος ἀπορθήτοιο πόληος.'

[982] Fronting the Ionian gulf there lies an island in the Ceraunian sea, rich in soil, with a harbour on both sides, beneath which lies the sickle, as legend saith — grant me grace, O Muses, not willingly do I tell this tale of olden days — wherewith Cronos pitilessly mutilated his father; but others call it the reaping-hook of Demeter, goddess of the nether world. For Demeter once

dwelt in that island, and taught the Titans to reap the ears of corn, all for the love of Macris. Whence it is called Drepane, the sacred nurse of the Phaeacians; and thus the Phaeacians themselves are by birth of the blood of Uranus. To them came Argo, held fast by many toils, borne by the breezes from the Thrinacian sea; and Alcinous and his people with kindly sacrifice gladly welcomed their coming; and over them all the city made merry; thou wouldst say they were rejoicing over their own sons. And the heroes themselves strode in gladness through the throng, even as though they had set foot in the heart of Haemonia; but soon were they to arm and raise the battle-cry; so near to them appeared a boundless host of Colchians, who had passed through the mouth of Pontus and between the Cyanean rocks in search of the chieftains. They desired forthwith to carry off Medea to her father's house apart from the rest, or else they threatened with fierce cruelty to raise the dread war-cry both then and thereafter on the coming of Aeetes. But lordly Alcinous checked them amid their eagerness for war. For he longed to allay the lawless strife between both sides without the clash of battle. And the maiden in deadly fear often implored the comrades of Aeson's son, and often with her hands touched the knees of Arete, the bride of Alcinous: "I beseech thee, O queen, be gracious and deliver me not to the Colchians to be borne to my father, if thou thyself too art one of the race of mortals, whose heart rushes swiftly to ruin from light transgressions. For my firm sense forsook me — it was not for wantonness. Be witness the sacred light of Helios, be witness the rites of the maiden that wanders by night, daughter of Perses. Not willingly did I haste from my home with men of an alien race; but a horrible fear wrought on me to bethink me of flight when I sinned; other device was there none. Still my maiden's girdle remains, as in the halls of my father, unstained, untouched. Pity me, lady, and turn thy lord to mercy; and may the immortals grant thee a perfect life, and joy, and children, and the glory of a city unravaged!"

τοῖα μὲν Ἀρήτην γουνάζετο δάκρυ χέουσα:

1030 τοῖα δ' ἀριστήων ἐπαμοιβαδὶς ἄνδρα ἕκαστον:

ὑμέων, ὃ πέρι δὴ μέγα φέρτατοι, ἀμφὶ τ' ἀέθλοις

ὣν κάμον ὑμετέροισιν, ἀτύζομαι: ἥς ἰότητι

ταύρους τ' ἐξεύξασθε, καὶ ἐκ θέρος οὐλοὸν ἀνδρῶν

κεῖρατε γηγενέων: ἥς εἵνεκεν Αἰμονίηνδε

1035 χρύσειον αὐτίκα κῶας ἀνάξετε νοστήσαντες.

ἦδ' ἐγώ, ἦ πάτρην τε καὶ οὖς ὤλεσσα τοκῆας,

ἦ δόμον, ἦ σύμπασαν εὐφροσύνην βιότοιο:

ὑμῖ καὶ πάτρην καὶ δώματα ναιέμεν αὔτις

ἦνυσα: καὶ γλυκεροῖσιν ἔτ' εἰσόψεσθε τοκῆας

1040 ὄμμασιν: αὐτὰρ ἐμοὶ ἀπὸ δὴ βαρὺς εἴλετο δαίμων

ἀγλαΐας: στυγερὴ δὲ σὺν ὀθνείοις ἀλάλημαι.

δείσατε συνθεσίας τε καὶ ὄρκια, δείσατ' Ἐρινὺν

Ἰκεσίην, νέμεσίν τε θεῶν, ἐς χεῖρας ἰούσαν

Αἰήτεω λώβῃ πολυπήμονι δηωθῆναι.

1045 οὐ νηούς, οὐ πύργον ἐπίρροθον, οὐκ ἄλεωρῆν
ἄλλην, οἴοθι δὲ προτιβάλλομαι ὑμέας αὐτούς.

σχέτλιοι ἀτροπίης καὶ ἀνηλέες· οὐδ' ἐνὶ θυμῷ
αἰδεῖσθε ξείνης μ' ἐπὶ γούνατα χεῖρας ἀνάσσης
δερκόμενοι τείνουσαν ἀμήχανον· ἀλλὰ κε πᾶσιν,

1050 κῶας ἐλεῖν μεμαῶτες, ἐμίξατε δούρατα Κόλχοις
αὐτῷ τ' Αἰήτῃ ὑπερήνορι· νῦν δ' ἐλάθεσθε
ἠγορέης, ὅτε μοῦνοι ἀποτμηγέντες ἔασιν.'

[1029] Thus did she implore Arete, shedding tears, and thus each of the chieftains in turn: "On your account, ye men of peerless might, and on account of my toils in your ventures am I sorely afflicted; even I, by whose help ye yoked the bulls, and reaped the deadly harvest of the earthborn men; even I, through whom on your homeward path ye shall bear to Haemonia the golden fleece. Lo, here am I, who have lost my country and my parents, who have lost my home and all the delights of life; to you have I restored your country and your homes; with eyes of gladness ye will see again your parents; but from me a heavy-handed god has raft all joy; and with strangers I wander, an accursed thing. Fear your covenant and your oaths, fear the Fury that avenges suppliants and the retribution of heaven, if I fall into Aeetes' hands and am slain with grievous outrage. To no shrines, no tower of defence, no other refuge do I pay heed, but only to you. Hard and pitiless in your cruelty! No reverence have ye for me in your heart though ye see me helpless, stretching my hands towards the knees of a stranger queen; yet, when ye longed to seize the fleece, ye would have met all the Colchians face to thee and haughty Aeetes himself; but now ye have forgotten your courage, now that they are all alone and cut off."

ὥς φάτο λισσομένη· τῶν δ' ὄντινα γουνάζοιτο,
ὅς μιν θαρσύνεσκεν ἐρητύων ἀχέουσιν.

1055 σεῖον δ' ἐγχείας εὐήκεας ἐν παλάμῃσιν,
φάσγανά τ' ἐκ κολεῶν. οὐδὲ σχήσεσθαι ἄρωγῆς
ἐννεπον, εἴ κε δίκης ἀλιτῆμονος ἀντιάσειεν.
στρευγομένοις δ' ἂν ὄμιλον ἐπῆλυθεν εὐνήτειρα
νὺξ ἔργων ἄνδρεςσι, κατευκλήλησε δὲ πᾶσαν

1060 γαῖαν ὁμῶς· τὴν δ' οὔτι μίνυνθά περ εὔνασεν ὕπνος,
ἀλλὰ οἱ ἐν στέρνοις ἀχέων εἰλίσσετο θυμός.

οἶον ὅτε κλωστήρα γυνὴ ταλαεργὸς ἐλίσσει
ἐννυχίῃ· τῇ δ' ἀμφὶ κινύρεται ὀρφανὰ τέκνα

χηροσύνη πόσιος· σταλάει δ' ὑπὸ δάκρυ παρειᾶς

1065 μνωομένης, οἷη μιν ἐπὶ σμυγερῇ λάβεν αἶσα·

ὥς τῆς ἱκμαίνοντο παρηίδες· ἐν δὲ οἱ ἦτορ
ὀξεῖης εἰλεῖτο πεπαρμένον ἄμφ' ὀδύνησιν.

[1053] Thus she spake, beseeching; and to whomsoever she bowed in prayer, that man tried to give her heart and to check her anguish. And in their hands they shook their sharp pointed spears, and drew the swords from their sheaths; and they swore they would not hold back from giving succour, if she should meet with an unrighteous judgement. And the host were all wearied and Night came on them, Night that puts to rest the works of men, and lulled all the earth to sleep; but to the maid no sleep brought rest, but in her bosom her heart was wrung with anguish. Even as when a toiling woman turns her spindle through the night, and round her moan her orphan children, for she is a widow, and down her cheeks fall the tears, as she bethinks her how dreary a lot hath seized her; so Medea's cheeks were wet; and her heart within her was in agony, pierced with sharp pain.

τὼ δ' ἔντοσθε δόμοιο κατὰ πτόλιν, ὥς τὸ πάροιθεν,
κρείων Ἀλκίνοος πολυπότνιά τ' Ἀλκινόοιο
1070 Ἀρήτη ἄλοχος, κούρης πέρι μητιάσσκον
οἷσιν ἐνὶ λεχέεσσι διὰ κνέφας: οἷα δ' ἀκοίτην
κουρίδιον θαλεροῖσι δάμαρ προσπτύσσετο μύθοις:
'ναὶ φίλος, εἰ δ' ἄγε μοι πολυκηδέα ῥύεο Κόλχων
παρθενικήν, Μινύησι φέρων χάριν. ἐγγύθι δ' Ἄργος
1075 ἡμετέρης νήσοιο καὶ ἄνδρες Αἰμονιῆς:
Αἰήτης δ' οὔτ' ἄρ ναίει σχεδόν, οὐδέ τι ἴδμεν
Αἰήτην, ἀλλ' οἷον ἀκούομεν: ἦδε δὲ κούρη
αἰνοπαθῆς κατὰ μοι νόον ἔκλασεν ἀντιώσῃ.
μῆ μιν, ἄναξ, Κόλχοισι πόροις ἐς πατρὸς ἄγεσθαι.
1080 ἀάσθη, ὅτε πρῶτα βοῶν θελκτήρια δῶκεν
φάρμακά οἱ: σχεδόθεν δὲ κακῷ κακόν, οἷά τε πολλὰ
ῥέζομεν ἀμπλακίησιν, ἀκειομένη ὑπάλυξεν
πατρὸς ὑπερφιάλοιο βαρὺν χόλον. αὐτὰρ Ἰήσων,
ὥς αἶω, μεγάλοισιν ἐνίσχεται ἐξ ἔθεν ὄρκοις,
1085 κουριδίην θήσεσθαι ἐνὶ μεγάροισιν ἄκοιτιν,
τῷ, φίλε, μήτ' οὖν αὐτὸν ἐκὼν ἐπίορκον ὁμόσσαι
θείης Αἰσονίδην, μήτ' ἄσχετα σεῖο ἔκητι
παῖδα πατήρ θυμῷ κεκοτηότι δηλήσαιο.
λίην γὰρ δύσζηλοι ἑαῖς ἐπὶ παισὶ τοκῆς:
1090 οἷα μὲν Ἀντιόπην εὐώπιδα μήσατο Νυκτεύς:
οἷα δὲ καὶ Δανάη πόντῳ ἐνὶ πῆματ' ἀνέτλη,
πατρὸς ἀτασθαλίησι: νέον γε μέν, οὐδ' ἀποτηλοῦ,
ὕβριστης ἔχετος γλῆναις ἐνὶ χάλκεα κέντρα
πῆξε θυγατρὸς ἑῆς: στονόνεντι δὲ κάρφεται οἴτῳ
1095 ὀρφναίῃ ἐνὶ χαλκὸν ἀλετρεύουσα καλιῇ.'

[1068] Now within the palace in the city, as aforetime, lay lordly Alcinous and Arete, the revered wife of Alcinous, and on their couch through the night they were devising plans about the maiden; and him, as her wedded husband, the

wife addressed with loving words: “Yea, my friend, come, save the woe-stricken maid from the Colchians and show grace to the Minyae. Argos is near our isle and the men of Haemonia; but Aeetes dwells not near, nor do we know of Aeetes one whit: we hear but his name; but this maiden of dread suffering hath broken my heart by her prayers. O king, give her not up to the Colchians to be borne back to her father’s home. She was distraught when first she gave him the drugs to charm the oxen; and next, to cure one ill by another, as in our sinning we do often, she fled from her haughty sire’s heavy wrath. But Jason, as I hear, is bound to her by mighty oaths that he will make her his wedded wife within his halls. Wherefore, my friend, make not, of thy will, Aeson’s son to be forsworn, nor let the father, if thou canst help, work with angry heart some intolerable mischief on his child. For fathers are all too jealous against their children; what wrong did Nycteus devise against Antiope, fair of face! What woes did Danae endure on the wide sea through her sire’s mad rage! Of late, and not far away, Echetus in wanton cruelty thrust spikes of bronze in his daughter’s eyes; and by a grievous fate is she wasting away, grinding grains of bronze in a dungeon’s gloom.”

ὥς ἔφατ' ἄντομένη: τοῦ δὲ φρένες ἰαίνοντο
 ἥς ἀλόχου μύθοισιν, ἔπος δ' ἐπὶ τοῖον ἔειπεν:
 ‘Ἀρήτη, καὶ κεν σὺν τεύχεσιν ἐξελάσαιμι
 Κόλχους, ἡρώεσσι φέρων χάριν, εἵνεκα κούρης.
 1100 ἀλλὰ Διὸς δείδουκα δίκην ἰθεῖαν ἀτίσσαι.
 οὐδὲ μὲν Αἰήτην ἀθεριζέμεν, ὥς ἀγορεύεις,
 λώιον: οὐ γάρ τις βασιλεύτερος Αἰήταο.
 καὶ κ' ἐθέλων, ἕκαθὲν περ, ἐφ' Ἑλλάδι νεῖκος ἄγοιτο.
 τῷ μ' ἐπέοικε δίκην, ἥτις μετὰ πᾶσιν ἀρίστη
 1105 ἔσσεται ἀνθρώποισι, δικαζέμεν: οὐδέ σε κεύσω.
 παρθενικὴν μὲν εἶδον ἐφ' ἀπὸ πατρὶ κομίσσαι
 ἰθύνω: λέκτρον δὲ σὺν ἀνέρι πορσαίνουσιν
 οὐ μιν εἶδον πόσιος νοσφίσσομαι: οὐδέ, γενέθλην
 εἶ τιν' ὑπὸ σπλάγχχοισι φέρει, δῆοισιν ὀπάσσω.’

[1096] Thus she spake, beseeching; and by his wife’s words his heart was softened, and thus he spake: “Arete, with arms I could drive forth the Colchians, showing grace to the heroes for the maiden’s sake. But I fear to set at nought the righteous judgment of Zeus. Nor is it well to take no thought of Aeetes, as thou sayest: for none is more lordly than Aeetes. And, if he willed, he might bring war upon Hellas, though he dwell afar. Wherefore it is right for me to deliver the judgment that in all men’s eyes shall be best; and I will not hide it from thee. If she be yet a maid I decree that they carry her back to her father; but if she shares a husband’s bed, I will not separate her from her lord; nor, if she bear a child beneath her breast, will I give it up to an enemy.”

1110 ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη: καὶ τὸν μὲν ἐπισχεδὸν εὔνασεν ὕπνος.

ἦ δ' ἔπος ἐν θυμῷ πυκινὸν βάλετ'· αὐτίκα δ' ὄρτο
ἐκ λεχέων ἀνὰ δῶμα· συνήϊξαν δὲ γυναῖκες
ἀμφίπολοι, δέσποιναν εἶην μέτα ποιπνύουσαι.
σῖγα δ' ἔδον κήρυκα καλεσσαμένη προσέειπεν,
1115 ἧσιν ἐπιφροσύνησιν ἐποτρυνέουσα μιγῆναι
Αἰσονίδην κούρη, μηδ' Ἀλκίνοον βασιλῆα
λίσσεσθαι· τὸ γὰρ αὐτὸς ἰὼν Κόλχοισι δικάσσει,
παρθενικὴν μὲν εὐῶσαν εὐῶ ποτὶ δώματα πατρὸς
ἐκδώσειν, λέκτρον δὲ σὺν ἀνέρι πορσαίνουσαν
1120 οὐκέτι κουριδίης μιν ἀποτμήξειν φιλότητος.

[1110] Thus he spake, and at once sleep laid him to rest. And she stored up in her heart the word of wisdom, and straightway rose from her couch and went through the palace; and her handmaids came hasting together, eagerly tending their mistress. But quietly she summoned her herald and addressed him, in her prudence urging Aeson's son to wed the maiden, and not to implore Alcinous; for he himself, she said, will decree to the Colchians that if she is still a maid he will deliver her up to be borne to her father's house, but that if she shares a husband's bed he will not sever her from wedded love.

ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη· τὸν δ' αἶψα πόδες φέρον ἐκ μεγάροιο,
ὥς κεν Ἰήσони μῦθον ἐναίσιμον ἀγγεῖλειεν
Ἀρήτης βουλὰς τε θεοῦδεος Ἀλκινόοιο.
τοὺς δ' εὔρεν παρὰ νηὶ σὺν ἔντεσιν ἐγρήσσοντας
1125 Ὑλλικῷ ἐν λιμένι, σχεδὸν ἄστεος· ἐκ δ' ἄρα πᾶσαν
πέφραδεν ἀγγελίην· γήθησε δὲ θυμὸς ἐκάστου
ἠρώων· μάλα γάρ σφιν ἐαδότα μῦθον ἔειπεν.

[1121] Thus she spake, and quickly from the hall his feet bore him, that he might declare to Jason the fair-omened speech of Arete and the counsel of godfearing Alcinous. And he found the heroes watching in full armour in the haven of Hyllus, near the city; and out he spake the whole message; and each hero's heart rejoiced; for the word that he spake was welcome.

αὐτίκα δὲ κρητῆρα κερασσάμενοι μακάρεσσιν,
ἦ θέμις, εὐαγέως ἐπιβώμια μῆλ' ἐρύσαντες,
1130 αὐτονυχὶ κούρη θαλαμήιον ἔντυον εὐνὴν
ἄντρῳ ἐν ἡγαθέῳ, τόθι δὴ ποτε Μάκρις ἔναιεν,
κούρη Ἀρισταίοιο μελίφρονος, ὅς ῥα μελισσέων
ἔργα πολυκμήτιό τ' ἀνέυρατο πῖα ἑλαίης.
κεῖνη δὲ πᾶμπρωτα Διὸς Νυσηίων νῖα
1135 Εὐβοίης ἔντοσθεν Ἀβαντίδος ᾧ ἐνὶ κόλπῳ
δέξατο, καὶ μέλιτι ξηρὸν περὶ χεῖλος ἔδευσεν,
εὔτε μιν Ἑρμείας φέρεν ἐκ πυρός· ἔδρακε δ' Ἥρη,
καὶ ἐχολωσαμένη πάσης ἐξήλασε νήσου.
ἦ δ' ἄρα Φαιήκων ἱερῷ ἐνὶ τηλόθεν ἄντρῳ

1140 νάσσατο, καὶ πόρην ὄλβον ἀθέσφατον ἐνναέτησιν.
ἐνθα τότε ἑστόρεσαν λέκτρον μέγα· τοῖο δ' ὕπερθεν
χρύσειον αἰγλήεν κῶας βάλλον, ὅφρα πέλοιτο
τιμήεις τε γάμος καὶ αἰοίδιμος. ἄνθεα δέ σφιν
νύμφαι ἀμεργόμεναι λευκοῖς ἐνὶ ποικίλῃ κόλποις
1145 ἐσφόρεον· πάσας δὲ πυρὸς ὥς ἄμφεπεν αἶγλη·
τοῖον ἀπὸ χρυσέων θυσάνων ἀμαρύσσετο φέγγος.
δαῖε δ' ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖς γλυκερὸν πόθον· ἴσχε δ' ἐκάστην
αἰδῶς ἱεμένην περ ὅμως ἐπὶ χεῖρα βαλέσθαι.
αἱ μὲν τ' Αἰγαίου ποταμοῦ καλέοντο θύγατρες·
1150 αἱ δ' ὄρεος κορυφᾷς Μελιτηίου ἀμφενέμοντο·
αἱ δ' ἔσαν ἐκ πεδίων ἀλσίδες. ὦρσε γὰρ αὐτὴ
Ἥρη Ζηνὸς ἄκοιτις, Ἰήσωνα κυδαίνουσα.
κεῖνο καὶ εἰσέτι νῦν ἱερὸν κληίζεται ἄντρον
Μηδείης, ὅθι τοῦσγε σὺν ἀλλήλοισιν ἔμιξαν
1155 τεινάμεναι ἑανοὺς εὐώδεας. οἱ δ' ἐνὶ χερσὶν
δούρατα νωμήσαντες ἀρήια, μὴ πρὶν ἐς ἀλκήν
δυσμενέων αἰδηλὸς ἐπιβρίσειεν ὄμιλος,
κράατα δ' εὐφύλλοις ἐστεμμένοι ἀκρεμόνεσσιν,
ἐμμελέως, Ὀρφεὺς ὑπαὶ λίγα φορμίζοντος
1160 νυμφιδίαις ὑμέναιον ἐπὶ προμολῆσιν ᾄδον.
οὐ μὲν ἐν Ἀλκινόοιο γάμον μενέαινε τελέσσαι
ἥρως Αἰσονίδης, μεγάροις δ' ἐνὶ πατρὸς εἶοι,
νοστήσας ἐς Ἴωλκὸν ὑπότροπος· ὧς δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ
Μῆδεια φρονέεσκε· τότε' αὖ χρεῶ ἦγε μιγῆναι.
1165 ἀλλὰ γὰρ οὐποτε φῦλα δυηπαθέων ἀνθρώπων
τερπωλῆς ἐπέβημεν ὄλω ποδί· σὺν δέ τις αἰεὶ
πικρὴ παρμέμβλωκεν εὐφορσύνησιν ἀνίη.
τῷ καὶ τοὺς γλυκερῇ περ ἱαινομένους φιλόττη
δεῖμ' ἔχεν, εἰ τελέοιτο διάκρισις Ἀλκινόοιο.

[1128] And straightway they mingled a bowl to the blessed ones, as is right, and reverently led sheep to the altar, and for that very night prepared for the maiden the bridal couch in the sacred cave, where once dwelt Macris, the daughter of Aristaeus, lord of honey, who discovered the works of bees and the fatness of the olive, the fruit of labour. She it was that first received in her bosom the Nysean son of Zeus in Abantian Euboea, and with honey moistened his parched lips when Hermes bore him out of the flame. And Hera beheld it, and in wrath drove her from the whole island. And she accordingly came to dwell far off, in the sacred cave of the Phaeacians, and granted boundless wealth to the inhabitants. There at that time did they spread a mighty couch; and thereon they laid the glittering fleece of gold, that so the marriage might be made honoured and the theme of song. And for them nymphs gathered flowers of varied hue and bore them thither in their white bosoms; and a splendour as of flame played round them all, such a light

gleamed from the golden tufts. And in their eyes it kindled a sweet longing; yet for all her desire, awe withheld each one from laying her hand thereon. Some were called daughters of the river Aegaeus; others dwelt round the crests of the Meliteian mount; and others were woodland nymphs from the plains. For Hera herself, the spouse of Zeus, had sent them to do honour to Jason. That cave is to this day called the sacred cave of Medea, where they spread the fine and fragrant linen and brought these two together. And the heroes in their hands wielded their spears for war, lest first a host of foes should burst upon them for battle unawares, and, their heads enwreathed with leafy sprays, all in harmony, while Orpheus' harp rang clear, sang the marriage song at the entrance to the bridal chamber. Yet not in the house of Alcinous was the hero, Aeson's son, minded to complete his marriage, but in his father's hall when he had returned home to Ioleus; and such was the mind of Medea herself; but necessity led them to wed at this time. For never in truth do we tribes of woe-stricken mortals tread the path of delight with sure foot; but still some bitter affliction keeps pace with our joy. Wherefore they too, though their souls were melted with sweet love, were held by fear, whether the sentence of Alcinous would be fulfilled.

1170 Ἡὼς δ' ἀμβροσίοισιν ἀνερχομένη φαέεσσιν

λῦε κελαινὴν νύκτα δι' ἡέρος· αἱ δ' ἐγέλασσαν

ἡιόνες νήσοιο καὶ ἐρσήεσσαι ἄπωθεν

ἀτραπιτοὶ πεδίων· ἐν δὲ θρόος ἔσκεν ἀγυαῖς·

κίνυντ' ἐνναέται μὲν ἀνὰ πτόλιν, οἱ δ' ἀποτηλοῦ

1175 Κόλχοι Μακρινίδης ἐπὶ πείρασι χερνήσοιο.

αὐτίκα δ' Ἀλκίνοος μετεβήσετο συνθεσίσῃσιν

ὄν νόον ἐξερέων κούρης ὕπερ· ἐν δ' ὄγε χειρὶ

σκῆπτρον ἔχεν χρυσοῖο δικασπόλον, ᾧ ὕπο λαοὶ

ἰθείας ἀνὰ ἄστρῳ διεκρίνοντο θέμιστας.

1180 τῷ δὲ καὶ ἐξείης πολεμῆια τεύχεα δύντες

Φαιήκων οἱ ἄριστοι ὁμιλαδὸν ἐστιχόωντο.

ἥρωας δὲ γυναῖκες ἀολλέες ἔκτοθι πύργων

βαῖνον ἐποψόμεναι· σὺν δ' ἄνδρες ἀγροιοῦνται

ἦντεον εἰσαΐοντες, ἐπεὶ νημερτέα βάζιν

1185 Ἥρῃ ἐπιπρόεηκεν. ἄγεν δ' ὁ μὲν ἔκκριτον ἄλλων

ἄρνειδὸν μήλων, ὃ δ' ἀεργηλὴν ἔτι πόρριν·

ἄλλοι δ' ἀμφιφορῆας ἐπισχεδὸν ἴστασαν οἴνου

κίρνασθαι· θυέων δ' ἀποφηλόθι κήκιε λιγνύς.

αἱ δὲ πολυκμήτους ἑανοὺς φέρον, οἷα γυναῖκες,

1190 μείλιά τε χρυσοῖο καὶ ἀλλοίην ἐπὶ τοῖσιν

ἀγλαῖην, οἷην τε νεόζυγες ἐντύνονται·

θάμβευν δ' εἰσορόωσαι ἀριπρεπέων ἡρώων

εἶδεα καὶ μορφάς, ἐν δὲ σφισιν Οἰάγροιο

υἱὸν ὑπαὶ φόρμιγγος ἐνκρέκτου καὶ ἀοιδῆς

1195 ταρφέα σιγαλόεντι πέδον κροτέοντα πεδίλῳ.

νύμφαι δ' ἄμμιγα πᾶσαι, ὅτε μνήσαιοτο γάμοιο,
ἱμερόενθ' ὑμέναιον ἀνήπυνον: ἄλλοτε δ' αὖτε
οἴοθεν οἶαι ἄειδον ἐλίσσόμεναι περὶ κύκλον,
Ἥρη, σεῖο ἔκhti: σὺ γὰρ καὶ ἐπὶ φρεσὶ θήκας
1200 Ἀρήτη, πυκινὸν φάσθαι ἔπος Ἀλκινόοιο.
αὐτὰρ ὃγ' ὥς τὰ πρῶτα δίκης ἀνὰ πείρατ' ἔειπεν
ἰθείης, ἥδη δὲ γάμου τέλος ἐκλήιστο,
ἔμπεδον ὧς ἀλέγυνε διαμπερές: οὐδέ ἐ τάρβος
οὐλοόν, οὐδὲ βαρεῖαι ἐπήλυθον Αἰήταο
1205 μῆνιες, ἀρρήκτοισι δ' ἐνιζεύξας ἔχεν ὄρκοις.
τῷ καὶ ὅτ' ἠλεμάτως Κόλχοι μάθον ἀντιόωντες,
καὶ σφεας ἡὲ θέμιστας ἐὰς εἴρυσθαι ἄνωγεν,
ἢ λιμένων γαίης τ' ἀποτηλόθι νῆας ἐέργειν,
δὴ τότε μιν βασιλῆος ἐοῦ τρομέοντας ἐνιπὰς
1210 δέχθαι μειλίζαντο συνήμονας: αὐθι δὲ νῆσφ
δὴν μάλα Φαιήκεσσι μετ' ἀνδράσι ναιετάασκον,
εἰσότε Βακχιάδαι, γενεὴν Ἐφύρηθεν ἐόντες,
ἄνδρες ἐννάσαντο μετὰ χρόνον: οἱ δὲ περαιῖν
νῆσον ἔβαν: κεῖθεν δὲ Κεραύνια μέλλον Ἀβάντων
1215 οὔρεα, Νεσταίους τε καὶ Ὠρικὸν εἰσαφικέσθαι:
ἀλλὰ τὰ μὲν στείχοντος ἄδην αἰῶνος ἐτύχθη.
Μοιράων δ' ἔτι κεῖσε θύη ἐπέτεια δέχονται
καὶ Νυμφέων Νομίοιο καθ' ἱερὸν Ἀπόλλωνος
βωμοί, τοὺς Μῆδεια καθίσσατο. πολλὰ δ' ἰοῦσιν
1220 Ἀλκίνοος Μινύαις ξεινῆια, πολλὰ δ' ὅπασσεν
Ἀρήτη: μετὰ δ' αὖτε δωδέκα δῶκεν ἔπεσθαι
Μηδείῃ δμῳᾶς Φαιηκίδας ἐκ μεγάροιο.
ἤματι δ' ἐβδομάτῳ Δρεπάνην λίπον: ἦλυθε δ' οὔρος
ἀκραῆς ἥῳθεν ὑπὲκ Διός: οἱ δ' ἀνέμοιο
1225 πνοιῇ ἐπειγόμειοι προτέρῳ θέον. ἀλλὰ γὰρ οὔπω
αἴσιμον ἦν ἐπιβῆναι Ἀχαιίδος ἡρώεσσιν,
ὄφρ' ἔτι καὶ Λιβύης ἐπὶ πείρασιν ὀτλήσειαν.

[1170] Now dawn returning with her beams divine scattered the gloomy night through the sky; and the island beaches laughed out and the paths over the plains far off, drenched with dew, and there was a din in the streets; the people were astir throughout the city, and far away the Colchians were astir at the bounds of the isle of Macris. And straightway to them went Alcinous, by reason of his covenant, to declare his purpose concerning the maiden, and in his hand he held a golden staff, his staff of justice, whereby the people had righteous judgments meted out to them throughout the city. And with him in order due and arrayed in their harness of war went marching, band by band, the chiefs of the Phaeacians. And from the towers came forth the women in crowds to gaze upon the heroes; and the country folk came to meet them when they heard the news, for Hera had sent forth a true report. And one led the

chosen ram of his flock, and another a heifer that had never toiled; and others set hard by jars of wine for mixing; and the smoke of sacrifice leapt up far away. And women bore fine linen, the fruit of much toil, as women will, and gifts of gold and varied ornaments as well, such as are brought to newly-wedded brides; and they marvelled when they saw the shapely forms and beauty of the gallant heroes, and among them the son of Oeagrus, oft beating the ground with gleaming sandal, to the time of his loud-ringing lyre and song. And all the nymphs together, whenever he recalled the marriage, uplifted the lovely bridal-chant; and at times again they sang alone as they circled in the dance, Hera, in thy honour; for it was thou that didst put it into the heart of Arete to proclaim the wise word of Alcinous. And as soon as he had uttered the decree of his righteous judgement, and the completion of the marriage had been proclaimed, he took care that thus it should abide fixed; and no deadly fear touched him nor Aeetes' grievous wrath, but he kept his judgement fast bound by unbroken oaths. So when the Colchians learnt that they were beseeching in vain and he bade them either observe his judgements or hold their ships away from his harbours and land, then they began to dread the threats of their own king and besought Alcinous to receive them as comrades; and there in the island long time they dwelt with the Phaeacians, until in the course of years, the Bacchiadae, a race sprung from Ephyra, settled among them; and the Colchians passed to an island opposite; and thence they were destined to reach the Ceraunian hills of the Abantes, and the Nestaeans and Oricum; but all this was fulfilled after long ages had passed. And still the altars which Medea built on the spot sacred to Apollo, god of shepherds, receive yearly sacrifices in honour of the Fates and the Nymphs. And when the Minyae departed many gifts of friendship did Alcinous bestow, and many Arete; moreover she gave Medea twelve Phaeacian handmaids from the palace, to bear her company. And on the seventh day they left Drepane; and at dawn came a fresh breeze from Zeus. And onward they sped borne along by the wind's breath. Howbeit not yet was it ordained for the heroes to set foot on Achaea, until they had toiled even in the furthest bounds of Libya.

ἦδη μὲν ποθὶ κόλπον ἐπώνυμον Λῑμβρακίῳ,
ἦδη Κουρήτιν ἔλιπον χθόνα πεπταμένοιισιν
1230 λαΐφεισι καὶ στεινὰς αὐταῖς σὺν Ἑχινάσι νήσους
ἐξείης, Πέλοπος δὲ νέον κατεφαίνετο γαῖα·
καὶ τότε ἄναρπάγδην ὁλοὴ βορέαο θύελλα
μεσσηγὺς πέλαγόςδε Λιβυστικὸν ἐννέα πάσας
νύκτας ὁμῶς καὶ τόσσα φέρ' ἤματα, μέχρις ἴκοντο
1235 προπρὸ μάλ' ἐνδοθὶ Σύρτιν, ὅθ' οὐκέτι νόστος ὀπίσσω
νηυσὶ πέλει, ὅτε τόνγε βίωατο κόλπον ἰκέσθαι.
πάντῃ γὰρ τέναγος, πάντῃ μνιόεντα βυθοῖο
τάρφεα· κωφὴ δὲ σφιν ἐπιβλύει ὕδατος ἄχνη·
ἡερίῃ δ' ἄμαθος παρακέκλιται· οὐδέ τι κείσε
1240 ἐρπετόν, οὐδὲ ποτητὸν ἀείρεται. ἐνθ' ἄρα τούσγε

πλουμευρίς — καὶ γάρ τ' ἀναχάζεται ἡπείροιο
ἢ θαμὰ δὴ τόδε χεῦμα, καὶ ἄψ' ἐπερεύγεται ἀκτὰς
λάβρον ἐποιχόμενον — μυχάτῃ ἐνέωσε τάχιστα
ἡϊόνι, τρόπιος δὲ μάλ' ὕδασι παῦρον ἔλειπτο.
1245 οἱ δ' ἀπὸ νηὸς ὄρουσαν, ἄχος δ' ἔλεν εἰσορόοντας
ἡέρα καὶ μεγάλῃς νῶτα χθονὸς ἡέρι ἴσα,
τηλοῦ ὑπερτείνοντα διηνεκές· οὐδέ τιν' ἄρδμόν,
οὐ πάτον, οὐκ ἀπάνευθε κατηυγάσσαντο βοτήρων
αὔλιον, εὐκίλῳ δὲ κατείχετο πάντα γαλήνῃ.
1250 ἄλλος δ' αὖτ' ἄλλον τετιμμένος ἐξερέεινεν:
'τίς χθὼν εὖχεται ἦδε; πόθι ξυνέωσαν ἄελλαι
ἡμέας; αἴθ' ἔτλημεν, ἀφειδέες οὐλομένοιο
δείματος, αὐτὰ κέλευθα διαμπερές ὀρμηθῆναι
πετράων. ἦ τ' ἂν καὶ ὑπὲρ Διὸς αἴσαν ἰοῦσιν
1255 βέλτερον ἦν μέγα δὴ τι μενοινώντας ὀλέσθαι.
νῦν δὲ τί κεν ῥέξαιμεν, ἐρυκόμενοι ἀνέμοισιν
αὔθι μένειν τυτθὸν περ ἐπὶ χρόνον; οἷον ἐρήμη
πέζα διωλυγίης ἀναπέπταται ἡπείροιο.'

[1228] Now had they left behind the gulf named after the Ambracians, now with sails wide spread the land of the Curetes, and next in order the narrow islands with the Echinades, and the land of Pelops was just descried; even then a baleful blast of the north wind seized them in mid-course and swept them towards the Libyan sea nine nights and as many days, until they came far within Syrtis, wherefrom is no return for ships, when they are once forced into that gulf. For on every hand are shoals, on every hand masses of seaweed from the depths; and over them the light foam of the wave washes without noise; and there is a stretch of sand to the dim horizon; and there moveth nothing that creeps or flies. Here accordingly the flood-tide — for this tide often retreats from the land and bursts back again over the beach coming on with a rush and roar — thrust them suddenly on to the innermost shore, and but little of the keel was left in the water. And they leapt forth from the ship, and sorrow seized them when they gazed on the mist and the levels of vast land stretching far like a mist and continuous into the distance; no spot for water, no path, no steadying of herdsmen did they descry afar off, but all the scene was possessed by a dead calm. And thus did one hero, vexed in spirit, ask another: "What land is this? Whither has the tempest hurled us? Would that, reckless of deadly fear, we had dared to rush on by that same path between the clashing rocks! Better were it to have overleapt the will of Zeus and perished in venturing some mighty deed. But now what should we do, held back by the winds to stay here, if ever so short a time? How desolate looms before us the edge of the limitless land!"

ὧς ἄρ' ἔφη: μετὰ δ' αὐτὸς ἀμηχανίῃ κακότητος
1260 ἰθυντὴρ Ἀγκαῖος ἀκηχέμενος ἀγόρευσεν:

‘Ὠλόμεθ’ αἰνότατον δῆθεν μόρον, οὐδ’ ὑπάλυξις
 ἔστ’ ἄτης· πάρα δ’ ἄμμι τὰ κύντατα πημανθῆναι
 τῇδ’ ἐπ’ ἐρημαίῃ πεπτηότας, εἰ καὶ ἄῃται
 χερσόθεν ἀμπνεύσειαν· ἐπεὶ τεναγώδεα λεύσσω
 1265 τῇλε περισκοπέων ἄλα πάντοθεν· ἤλιθα δ’ ὕδωρ
 ξαίνόμενον πολιῇσιν ἐπιτροχάει ψαμάθοισιν.
 καὶ κεν ἐπισμυγεῶς διὰ δὴ πάλαι ἦδ’ ἐκεάσθη
 νηῦς ἱερὴ χέρσου πολλὸν πρόσω· ἀλλὰ μιν αὐτὴ
 πλημμυρὶς ἐκ πόντοιο μεταχθονίην ἐκόμισσεν.
 1270 νῦν δ’ ἡ μὲν πέλαγόςδε μετέσσεται, οἰόθι δ’ ἄλμη
 ἄπλοος εἰλεῖται, γαίης ὕπερ ὅσσον ἔχουσα.
 τούνεκ’ ἐγὼ πᾶσαν μὲν ἀπ’ ἐλπίδα φημὶ κεκόφθαι
 ναυτιλίας νόστου τε. δαημοσύνην δέ τις ἄλλος
 φαίνει· εἴην· πάρα γάρ οἱ ἐπ’ οἰήκεσσι θαάσσειν
 1275 μαιομένω κομιδῇς. ἄλλ’ οὐ μάλα νόστιμον ἦμαρ
 Ζεὺς ἐθέλει καμάτοισιν ἐφ’ ἡμετέροισι τελέσσαι.’
 ὧς φάτο δακρυόεις· σὺν δ’ ἔννεπον ἀσχαλόωντι

[1259] Thus one spake; and among them Ancaeus the helmsman, in despair at their evil case, spoke with grieving heart: “Verily we are undone by a terrible doom; there is no escape from ruin; we must suffer the cruellest woes, having fallen on this desolation, even though breezes should blow from the land; for, as I gaze far around, on every side do I behold a sea of shoals, and masses of water, fretted line upon line, run over the hoary sand. And miserably long ago would our sacred ship have been shattered far from the shore; but the tide itself bore her high on to the land from the deep sea. But now the tide rushes back to the sea, and only the foam, whereon no ship can sail, rolls round us, just covering the land. Wherefore I deem that all hope of our voyage and of our return is cut off. Let someone else show his skill; let him sit at the helm the man that is eager for our deliverance. But Zeus has no will to fulfil our day of return after all our toils.”

ὅσσοι ἔσαν νηῶν δεδαημένοι· ἐν δ’ ἄρα πᾶσιν
 παχνώθη κραδίη, χύτο δὲ χλόος ἀμφὶ παρειάς.
 1280 οἶον δ’ ἀψύχοισιν ἐοικότες εἰδώλοισιν
 ἄνδρες εἰλίσσονται ἀνὰ πτόλιν, ἢ πολέμοιο
 ἢ λοιμοῖο τέλος ποτιδέγμενοι, ἢ ἐτιν’ ὄμβρον
 ἄσπετον, ὃς τε βοῶν κατὰ μυρία ἐκλυσεν ἔργα,
 ἢ ὅταν αὐτόματα ξόανα ῥέη ἰδρώοντα
 1285 αἶματι, καὶ μυκαὶ σηκοῖς ἐνὶ φαντάζονται,
 ἢ ἐκαὶ ἡέλιος μέσφ’ ἡματι νύκτ’ ἐπάγησιν
 οὐρανόθεν, τὰ δὲ λαμπρὰ δι’ ἡέρος ἄστρα φαεΐνοι·
 ὧς τότε ἄριστῆς δολιχοῦ πρόπαρ αἰγιαλοῖο
 ἦλυν ἐρπύζοντες. ἐπήλυθε δ’ αὐτίκ’ ἐρεμνὴ
 1290 ἔσπερος. οἱ δ’ ἐλεεινὰ χεροῖν σφέας ἀμφιβαλόντες

δακρύνουσιν ἀγάπαζον, ἴν' ἀνδρῶν δῆθεν ἕκαστος
θυμὸν ἀποφθίσκειαν ἐνὶ ψαμάθοισι πεσόντες.
βᾶν δ' ἵμεν ἄλλυδις ἄλλος ἑκαστέρῳ αὐτὸν ἐλέσθαι:
ἐν δὲ κάρη πέπλοισι καλυψάμενοι σφετέροισιν
1295 ἄκμηνοι καὶ ἄπαστοι ἐκείατο νύκτ' ἐπὶ πᾶσαν
καὶ φάος, οἰκτίστω θανάτῳ ἐπὶ. νόσφι δὲ κοῦραι
ἄθροαι Αἰήταο παρεστενάχοντο θυγατρί.
ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἐρημαῖοι πεπτηότες ἔκτοθι πέτρης
χηραμοῦ ἀπτήνες λιγέα κλάζουσι νεοσσοί:
1300 ἥ ὅτε καλὰ νόοντος ἐπ' ὀφρύσι Πακτωλοῖο
κύκνοι κινήσωσιν ἑὸν μέλος, ἀμφὶ δὲ λειμῶν
ἑρσῆεις βρέμεται ποταμοῖό τε καλὰ ρέεθρα:
ὥς αἱ ἐπὶ ξανθὰς θέμεναι κονίησιν ἐθειράς
παννύχαι ἐλεινὸν ἰήλεμον ὠδύροντο.
1305 καὶ νῦν κεν αὐτοῦ πάντες ἀπὸ ζωῆς ἐλίσσθην
νόονυμοι καὶ ἄφαντοι ἐπιχθονίοισι δαῖναι
ἡρώων οἱ ἄριστοι ἀνιγνύστω ἐπ' ἀέθλῳ:
ἀλλὰ σφραγὶς ἐλέηραν ἀμηχανίῃ μινύθοντας
ἡρῶσσαι, Λιβύης τιμήοροι, αἱ ποτ' Ἀθήνην,
1310 ἥμος ὅτ' ἐκ πατρὸς κεφαλῆς θόρε παμφαίνουσα,
ἀντόμεναι Τρίτωνος ἐφ' ὕδασι χυτλώσαντο.
ἔνδιον ἡμᾶρ ἔην, περὶ δ' ὀξύταται θέρον αὐγαὶ
ἡελίου Λιβύην: αἱ δὲ σχεδὸν Λίσονίδαο
ἔσταν, ἔλον δ' ἀπὸ χερσὶ καρήατος ἡρέμα πέπλον.
1315 αὐτὰρ ὅγ' εἰς ἐτέρωσε παλιμπετέες ὄμματ' ἔνεικεν,
δαίμονας αἰδεσθεῖς: αὐτὸν δὲ μιν ἀμφοδὸν οἶον
μειλιχίοις ἐπέεσσιν ἀτυζόμενον προσέειπον:

[1277] Thus he spake with tears, and all of them that had knowledge of ships agreed thereto; but the hearts of all grew numb, and pallor overspread their cheeks. And as, like lifeless spectres, men roam through a city awaiting the issue of war or of pestilence, or some mighty storm which overwhelms the countless labours of oxen, when the images of their own accord sweat and run down with blood, and bellowings are heard in temples, or when at mid-day the sun draws on night from heaven, and the stars shine clear through the mist; so at that time along the endless strand the chieftains wandered, groping their way. Then straightway dark evening came upon them; and piteously did they embrace each other and say farewell with tears, that they might, each one apart from his fellow, fall on the sand and die. And this way and that they went further to choose a resting-place; and they wrapped their heads in their cloaks and, fasting and unfed, lay down all that night and the day, awaiting a piteous death. But apart the maidens huddled together lamented beside the daughter of Aetes. And as when, forsaken by their mother, unfledged birds that have fallen from a cleft in the rock chirp shrilly; or when by the banks of fair-flowing Pactolus, swans raise their song, and all around the dewy

meadow echoes and the river's fair stream; so these maidens, laying in the dust their golden hair, all through the night wailed their piteous lament. And there all would have parted from life without a name and unknown to mortal men, those bravest of heroes, with their task unfulfilled; but as they pined in despair, the heroine-nymphs, warders of Libya, had pity on them, they who once found Athena, what time she leapt in gleaming armour from her father's head, and bathed her by Triton's waters. It was noon-tide and the fiercest rays of the sun were scorching Libya; they stood near Aeson's son, and lightly drew the cloak from his head. And the hero cast down his eyes and looked aside, in reverence for the goddesses, and as he lay bewildered all alone they addressed him openly with gentle words:

‘κάμμορε, τίπτ’ ἐπὶ τόσσον ἀμηχανίη βεβόλησαι;
ἴδμεν ἐποικομένους χρύσειον δέρος: ἴδμεν ἕκαστα
1320 ὑμετέρων καμάτων, ὅς’ ἐπὶ χθονός, ὅσσα τ’ ἐφ’ ὕγρην
πλαζόμενοι κατὰ πόντον ὑέρβια ἔργ’ ἐκάμεσθε.
οιοπόλοι δ’ εἰμὲν χθόνια θεαὶ αὐδήεσσαι,
ἡρῶσσαι, Λιβύης τιμήοροι ἡδὲ θύγατρες.
ἀλλ’ ἄνα: μηδ’ ἔτι τοῖον οἰζύων ἀκάχησο:
1325 ἄνστησον δ’ ἐτάρους. εὗτ’ ἂν δέ τοι Ἀμφιτρίτη
ἄρμα Ποσειδάωνος ἐύτροχον αὐτίκα λύσῃ,
δὴ ῥα τότε σφετέρῃ ἀπὸ μητέρι τίνετ’ ἀμοιβήν
ὦν ἔκαμεν δηρὸν κατὰ νηδύος ὕμμε φέρουσα:
καὶ κεν ἔτ’ ἡγαθέην ἐς Ἀχαιίδα νοστήσαιτε.’

[1318] “Ill-starred one, why art thou so smitten with despair? We know how ye went in quest of the golden fleece; we know each toil of yours, all the mighty deeds ye wrought in your wanderings over land and sea. We are the solitary ones, goddesses of the land, speaking with human voice, the heroines, Libya's warders and daughters. Up then; be not thus afflicted in thy misery, and rouse thy comrades. And when Amphitrite has straightway loosed Poseidon's swift-wheeled car, then do ye pay to your mother a recompense for all her travail when she bare you so long in her womb; and so ye may return to the divine land of Achaea.”

1330 ὥς ἄρ’ ἔφαν, καὶ ἄφαντοι ἴν’ ἔσταθεν, ἔνθ’ ἄρα ταίγε
φθογγῇ ὁμοῦ ἐγένοντο παρασχεδόν. αὐτὰρ Ἴησων
παπτήνας ἄν’ ἄρ’ ἔζετ’ ἐπὶ χθονός, ὧδέ τ’ ἔειπεν:
“Ἰλατ’ ἐρημονόμοι κυδραὶ θεαί: ἀμφὶ δὲ νόστω
οὔτι μάλ’ ἀντικρὺ νοέω φάτιν. ἦ μὲν ἐταίρους
1335 εἰς ἔν ἀγειράμενος μυθήσομαι, εἴ νύ τι τέκμων
δῶμεν κομιδῆς: πολέων δέ τε μῆτις ἀρείων.’

[1330] Thus they spake, and with the voice vanished at once, where they stood. But Jason sat upon the earth as he gazed around, and thus cried: “Be gracious, noble goddesses of the desert, yet the saying about our return I understand not

clearly. Surely I will gather together my comrades and tell them, if haply we can find some token of our escape, for the counsel of many is better.”

ἦ, καὶ ἀναΐξας ἐτάρους ἐπὶ μακρὸν αὐτεῖ,
αὐσταλέος κονίησι, λέων ὥς, ὃς ῥά τ' ἄν' ὕλην
σύννομον ἦν μεθέπων ὠρύεται· αἱ δὲ βαρεῖη
1340 φθογγῇ ὑποτρομέουσιν ἄν' οὐρεα τηλόθι βῆσσαι·
δείματι δ' ἄγραυλοὶ τε βόες μέγα πεφρίκασιν
βουπελάται τε βοῶν· τοῖς δ' οὐ νύ τι γῆρυς ἐτύχθη
ρίγεδανὴ ἐτάριοι φίλους ἐπικεκλομένοιο.
ἀγχοῦ δ' ἠγερέθοντο κατηφέες· αὐτὰρ ὁ τοῦσγε
1345 ἀχνυμένους ὄρμοιο πέλας μίγα θηλυτέρησιν
ιδρύσας, μυθεῖτο πιφανσκόμενος τὰ ἕκαστα·
‘κλῦτε, φίλοι· τρεῖς γάρ μοι ἀνιάζοντι θεάων,
στέρφεσιν αἰγείοις ἐζωσμέναι ἐξ ὑπάτοιο
αὐχένος ἀμφὶ τε νῶτα καὶ ἰξύας, ἥύτε κοῦραι,
1350 ἔσταν ὑπὲρ κεφαλῆς μάλ' ἐπισχεδόν· ἂν δ' ἐκάλυψαν
πέπλον ἐρυσσάμεναι κούφη χερὶ, καὶ μ' ἐκέλοντο
αὐτόν τ' ἔγρεσθαι, ἀνά θ' ὑμέας ὄρσαι ἰόντα·
μητέρι δὲ σφετέρῃ μενοεικέα τίσαι ἀμοιβὴν
ὧν ἔκαμεν δηρὸν κατὰ νηδύος ἅμμε φέρουσα
1355 ὁππότε κεν λύσῃσιν εὐτροχὸν Ἀμφιτρίτη
ἄρμα Ποσειδάωνος· ἐγὼ δ' οὐ πάγχυ νοῆσαι
τῆσδε θεοπροπίης ἴσχω πέρι· φάν γε μὲν εἶναι
ἠρῶσσαι, Λιβύης τιμήοροι ἠδὲ θύγατρες·
καὶ δ' ὁπός' αὐτοὶ πρόσθεν ἐπὶ χθονὸς ἠδ' ὅς' ἐφ' ὕγρην
1360 ἔτλημεν, τὰ ἕκαστα διίδμεναι εὐχετόωντο.
οὐδ' ἔτι τάσδ' ἀνὰ χῶρον ἐσέδρακον, ἀλλὰ τις ἀχλὺς
ἦε νέφος μεσσηγὺ φαεινομένας ἐκάλυπεν.’

[1337] He spake, and leapt to his feet, and shouted afar to his comrades, all squalid with dust, like a lion when he roars through the woodland seeking his mate; and far off in the mountains the glens tremble at the thunder of his voice; and the oxen of the field and the herdsmen shudder with fear; yet to them Jason's voice was no whit terrible the voice of a comrade calling to his friends. And with looks downcast they gathered near, and hard by where the ship lay he made them sit down in their grief and the women with them, and addressed them and told them everything: “Listen, friends; as I lay in my grief, three goddesses girded with goat-skins from the neck downwards round the back and waist, like maidens, stood over my head nigh at hand; and they uncovered me, drawing my cloak away with light hand, and they bade me rise up myself and go and rouse you, and pay to our mother a bounteous recompense for all her travail when she bare us so long in her womb, when Amphitrite shall have loosed Poseidon's swift-wheeled car. But I cannot fully understand concerning this divine message. They said indeed that they were

heroines, Libya's warders and daughters; and all the toils that we endured aforetime by land and sea, all these they declared that they knew full well. Then I saw them no more in their place, but a mist or cloud came between and hid them from my sight."

ὥς ἔφαθ'· οἱ δ' ἄρα πάντες ἐθάμβεον εἰσαΐοντες.

ἐνθα τὸ μήκιστον τεράων Μινύησιν ἐτύχθη.

1365 ἐξ ἄλδος ἡπειρόνδε πελώριος ἔκθορεν ἵππος,

ἀμφιλαφής, χρυσέησι μετήορος αὐχένα χαίταις·

ρίμφα δὲ σεισάμενος γυίων ἄπο νήχυτον ἄλμην

ᾧρτο θέειν, πνοιῇ ἵκελος πόδας. αἴψα δὲ Πηλεὺς

γηθήσας ἐτάροισιν ὀμηγερέεσσι μετηύδα·

1370 ἄρματα μὲν δὴ φημι Ποσειδάωνος ἔγωγε

ἤδη νῦν ἀλόχοιο φίλης ὑπὸ χερσὶ λελύσθαι·

μητέρα δ' οὐκ ἄλλην προτιόσσομαι, ἥ ἐπερ αὐτὴν

νῆα πέλειν· ἥ γὰρ κατὰ νηδύος ἄμμε φέρουσα

νωλεμὲς ἀργαλέοισιν οἰζύει καμάτοισιν.

1375 ἀλλὰ μιν ἀστεμφεῖ τε βίη καὶ ἀτειρέσιν ὤμοις

ὑπόθεν ἀνθέμενοι ψαμαθώδεος ἔνδοθι γαίης

οἴσομεν, ἥ προτέρωσε ταχὺς πόδας ἤλασεν ἵππος.

οὐ γὰρ ὅγε ξηρὴν ὑποδύσεται· ἔχνια δ' ἡμῖν

σημανέειν τιν' ἔολπα μυχὸν καθύπερθε θαλάσσης·"

[1363] Thus he spake, and all marvelled as they heard. Then was wrought for the Minyae the strangest of portents. From the sea to the land leapt forth a monstrous horse, of vast size, with golden mane tossing round his neck; and quickly from his limbs he shook off abundant spray and started on his course, with feet like the wind. And at once Peleus rejoiced and spake among the throng of his comrades: "I deem that Poseidon's ear has even now been loosed by the hands of his dear wife, and I divine that our mother is none else than our ship herself; for surely she bare us in her womb and groans unceasingly with grievous travailing. But with unshaken strength and untiring shoulders will we lift her up and bear her within this country of sandy wastes, where yon swift-footed steed has sped before. For he will not plunge beneath the earth; and his hoof-prints, I ween, will point us to some bay above the sea."

1380 ὥς ηὔδα· πάντεσσι δ' ἐπήβολος ἦνδανε μήτις·

Μουσάων ὅδε μῦθος· ἐγὼ δ' ὑπακουὸς ἀεῖδω

Περίδων, καὶ τήνδε πανατρεκές ἔκλυον ὀμφήν,

ὑμέας, ᾧ περὶ δὴ μέγα φέρτατοι νῆες ἀνάκτων,

ἥ βίη ἥ τ' ἀρετὴ Λιβύης ἀνὰ θῖνας ἐρήμους

1385 νῆα μεταχρονίην ὅσα τ' ἔνδοθι νηὸς ἄγεσθε,

ἀνθεμένους ὥμοισι φέρειν δυοκαίδεκα πάντα

ἤμαθ' ὁμοῦ νύκτας τε. δύνην γε μὲν ἦ καὶ οἰζὺν

τίς κ' ἐνέποι, τὴν κεῖνοι ἀνέπλησαν μογέοντες;

ἔμπεδον ἀθανάτων ἔσαν αἵματος, οἷον ὑπέστησαν
1390 ἔργον, ἀναγκαίῃ βεβημένοι. αὐτὰρ ἐπιπρὸ
τῆλε μάλ' ἀσπασίως Τριτωνίδος ὕδασι λίμνης
ὥς φέρον, ὥς εἰσβάντες ἀπὸ στιβαρῶν θέσαν ὤμων.

[1380] Thus he spake, and the fit counsel pleased all. This is the tale the Muses told; and I sing obedient to the Pierides, and this report have I heard most truly; that ye, O mightiest far of the sons of kings, by your might and your valour over the desert sands of Libya raised high aloft on your shoulders the ship and all that ye brought therein, and bare her twelve days and nights alike. Yet who could tell the pain and grief which they endured in that toil? Surely they were of the blood of the immortals, such a task did they take on them, constrained by necessity. How forward and how far they bore her gladly to the waters of the Tritonian lake! How they strode in and set her down from their stalwart shoulders!

Λυσσαλέοις δῆπειτ' ἵκελοι κυσὶν αἰσσοντες
πίδακα μαστεύεσκον· ἐπὶ ξηρῇ γὰρ ἔκειτο
1395 δίψα δυηπαθίῃ τε καὶ ἄλγεσιν, οὐδ' ἐμάτησαν
πλαζόμενοι· ἴξον δ' ἱερὸν πέδον, ᾧ ἐνὶ Λάδων
εἰσέτι που χθιζὸν παγχρύσεια ῥύετο μῆλα
χώρῳ ἐν Ἀτλαντος, χθόνιος ὄφης· ἀμφὶ δὲ νύμφαι
Ἑσπερίδες ποίπνυν, ἐφίμερον αἰείδουσαι.
1400 δὴ τότε δ' ἤδη τῆμος ὕφ' Ἡρακλῆϊ δαΐχθεις
μῆλειον βέβλητο ποτὶ στύπος· οἰόθι δ' ἄκρῃ
οὐρῇ ἔτι σκαίρεσκεν· ἀπὸ κρατὸς δὲ κελαϊνήν
ἄχρῃς ἐπ' ἄκνηστιν κεῖτ' ἄπνοος· ἐκ δὲ λιπόντων
ὑδρῆς Λερναίης χόλον αἵματι πικρὸν οἰστῶν
1405 μυῖαι πυθομένοισιν ἐφ' ἔλκεσι τερσαίνοντο.
ἀγχοῦ δ' Ἑσπερίδες κεφαλαῖς ἐπὶ χεῖρας ἔχουσai
ἀργυφέας ξανθῇσι λίγ' ἔστενον· οἱ δ' ἐπέλασσαν
ἄφνω ὁμοῦ· ταὶ δ' αἶψα κόνις καὶ γαῖα, κiónτων
ἐσσυμένως, ἐγένοντο καταυτόθι. νόσατο δ' Ὀρφεὺς
1410 θεῖα τέρα, τὰς δὲ σφι παρηγορέεσκε λιτῆσιν·
'δαίμονες ᾧ καλαὶ καὶ εὐφρονες, ἴλατ', ἄνασσα,
εἴτ' οὖν οὐρανίαις ἐναρίθμιοί ἐστε θεῆσιν,
εἴτε καταχθονίαις, εἴτ' οἰοπόλοι καλέεσθε
νύμφαι· ἴτ' ᾧ νύμφαι, ἱερὸν γένος Ὠκεανοῖο,
1415 δεῖξat' ἐλδομένοισιν ἐνωπαδὶς ἄμμι φανεῖσαι
ἢ τινα πετραῖην χύσιν ὕδατος, ἢ τινα γαίης
ἱερὸν ἐκβλύοντα, θεαί, ῥόον, ᾧ ἀπὸ δίψαν
αἰθομένην ἄμοτον λωφήσομεν. εἰ δέ κεν αὖτις
δὴ ποτ' Ἀχαιίδα γαῖαν ἰκώμεθα ναυτιλίῃσιν,
1420 δὴ τότε μυρία δῶρα μετὰ πρώτῃσι θεάων
λοιβάς τ' εἰλαπίνας τε παρέξομεν εὐμενέοντες.'

[1393] Then, like raging hounds, they rushed to search for a spring; for besides their suffering and anguish, a parching thirst lay upon them, and not in vain did they wander; but they came to the sacred plain where Ladon, the serpent of the land, till yesterday kept watch over the golden apples in the garden of Atlas; and all around the nymphs, the Hesperides, were busied, chanting their lovely song. But at that time, stricken by Heracles, he lay fallen by the trunk of the apple-tree; only the tip of his tail was still writhing; but from his head down his dark spine he lay lifeless; and where the arrows had left in his blood the bitter gall of the Lernaean hydra, flies withered and died over the festering wounds. And close at hand the Hesperides, their white arms flung over their golden heads, lamented shrilly; and the heroes drew near suddenly; but the maidens, at their quick approach, at once became dust and earth where they stood. Orpheus marked the divine portent, and for his comrades addressed them in prayer: "O divine ones, fair and kind, be gracious, O queens, whether ye be numbered among the heavenly goddesses, or those beneath the earth, or be called the Solitary nymphs; come, O nymphs, sacred race of Oceanus, appear manifest to our longing eyes and show us some spring of water from the rock or some sacred flow gushing from the earth, goddesses, wherewith we may quench the thirst that burns us unceasingly. And if ever again we return in our voyaging to the Achaean land, then to you among the first of goddesses with willing hearts will we bring countless gifts, libations and banquets."

ὥς φάτο λισσόμενος ἀδινῇ ὀπί: ται δ' ἐλέαιρον
ἐγγύθεν ἀχνυμένους: καὶ δὴ χθονὸς ἐξανέτειλαν
ποίην πάμπρωτον: ποίης γε μὲν ὑπόθι μακροί
1425 βλάστεον ὄρπηκες: μετὰ δ' ἔρνεα τηλεθάοντα
πολλὸν ὑπὲρ γαίης ὀρθοσταδὸν ἤεζοντο.
Ἑσπέρη αἰγείρος, πετέλη δ' Ἑρυθίης ἔγεντο:
Λίγλη δ' ἰτεῖης ἱερὸν στύπος. ἐκ δὲ νυ κείνων
δενδρέων, οἶαι ἔσαν, τοῖαι πάλιν ἔμπεδον αὐτῶς
1430 ἐξέφανεν, θάμβος περιώσιον, ἔκφατο δ' Λίγλη
μειλιχίοις ἐπέεσσιν ἀμειβομένη χατέοντας:
ἥ ἄρα δὴ μέγα ἀάμπαν ἐφ' ὑμετέροισιν ὄνειρα
δεῦρ' ἔμολεν καμάτοισιν ὁ κύντατος, ὅστις ἀπούρας
φρουρὸν ὄφιν ζωῆς παγχρύσεια μῆλα θεάων
1435 οἶχετ' ἀειράμενος: στυγερόν δ' ἄχος ἄμμι λέλειπται.
ἦλυθε γὰρ χθιζὸς τις ἀνὴρ ὀλοώτατος ὕβριν
καὶ δέμας: ὅσσε δὲ οἱ βλοσυρῷ ὑπέλαμπε μετώπῳ:
νηλῆς: ἀμφὶ δὲ δέρμα πελωρίου ἔστο λέοντος
ὠμόν, ἀδέσνητον: στιβαρόν δ' ἔχεν ὄζον ἐλαίης
1440 τόξα τε, τοῖσι πέλωρ τόδ' ἀπέφθισεν ἰοβολήσας.
ἦλυθε δ' οὖν κἀκεῖνος, ἃ τε χθόνα πεζὸς ὁδεύων,
δίψη καρχαλέος: παίφασσε δὲ τόνδ' ἀνὰ χῶρον,
ὑδωρ ἐξερέων, τὸ μὲν οὐ ποθι μέλλεν ἰδέσθαι.

ἦδε δέ τις πέτρη Τριτωνίδος ἐγγύθι λίμνης:
1445 τὴν ὄγ' ἐπιφρασθεῖς, ἥ καὶ θεοῦ ἐννεσίησιν,
λάξ ποδὶ τύψεν ἔνερθε: τὸ δ' ἄθρόον ἔβλυσεν ὕδωρ.
αὐτὰρ ὄγ' ἄμφω χεῖρε πέδω καὶ στέρνον ἐρείσας
ῥωγάδος ἐκ πέτρης πίεν ἄσπετον, ὄφρα βαθεῖαν
νηδύν, φορβάδι ἴσος ἐπιπροπεσών, ἐκορέσθη.'

[1422] So he spake, beseeching them with plaintive voice; and they from their station near pitied their pain; and lo! First of all they caused grass to spring from the earth; and above the grass rose up tall shoots, and then flourishing saplings grew standing upright far above the earth. Hespere became a poplar and Eretheis an elm, and Aegle a willow's sacred trunk. And forth from these trees their forms looked out, as clear as they were before, a marvel exceeding great, and Aegle spake with gentle words answering their longing looks: "Surely there has come hither a mighty succour to your toils, that most accursed man, who robbed our guardian serpent of life and plucked the golden apples of the goddesses and is gone; and has left bitter grief for us. For yesterday came a man most fell in wanton violence, most grim in form; and his eyes flashed beneath his scowling brow; a ruthless wretch; and he was clad in the skin of a monstrous lion of raw hide, untanned; and he bare a sturdy bow of olive, and a bow, wherewith he shot and killed this monster here. So he too came, as one traversing the land on foot, parched with thirst; and he rushed wildly through this spot, searching for water, but nowhere was he like to see it. Now here stood a rock near the Tritonian lake; and of his own device, or by the prompting of some god, he smote it below with his foot; and the water gushed out in full flow. And he, leaning both his hands and chest upon the ground, drank a huge draught from the rifted rock, until, stooping like a beast of the field, he had satisfied his mighty maw."

1450 ὧς φάτο: τοὶ δ' ἀσπαστὸν ἵνα σφίσι πέφραδεν Αἶγλη
πίδακα, τῇ θεὸν αἶψα κεχαρμένοι, ὄφρ' ἐπέκυρσαν.
ὥς δ' ὅποτε στενὴν περὶ χηραμὸν εἰλίσσονται
γειομόροι μύρμηκες ὀμιλαδόν, ἥ ὅτε μυῖαι
ἀμφ' ὀλίγην μέλιτος γλυκεροῦ λίβα πεπτηυῖαι
1455 ἀπλητον μεμάασιν ἐπήτριοι: ὧς τότε ἄολλεῖς
πετραίη Μινύαι περὶ πίδακι δινεύεσκον.
καὶ πού τις διεροῖς ἐπὶ χεῖλεσιν εἶπεν ἰανθείς:
'ὦ πόποι, ἦ καὶ νόσφιν ἐὼν ἐσάωσεν ἐταίρους
Ἡρακλέης δίψῃ κεκμηότας. ἀλλὰ μιν εἴ πως
1460 δῆοιμεν στείχοντα δι' ἠπείροιο κιόντας.'

[1450] Thus she spake; and they gladly with joyful steps ran to the spot where Aegle had pointed out to them the spring, until they reached it. And as when earth-burrowing ants gather in swarms round a narrow cleft, or when flies lighting upon a tiny drop of sweet honey cluster round with insatiate

eagerness; so at that time, huddled together, the Minyae thronged about the spring from the rock. And thus with wet lips one cried to another in his delight: "Strange! In very truth Heracles, though far away, has saved his comrades, fordone with thirst. Would that we might find him on his way as we pass through the mainland!"

ἦ, καὶ ἀμειβομένων, οἳ τ' ἄρμενοι ἐς τόδε ἔργον,
ἐκριθεν ἀλλυδὶς ἄλλος ἐπαΐξας ἐρεεΐνειν.
ἶχνια γὰρ νυχίοισιν ἐπηλίνδῃτ' ἀνέμοισιν
κινυμένης ἀμάθου. Βορέας μὲν ὠρμήθησαν
1465 υἷε δὴ δὴ, περύγεσσι πεποιθότε. ποσσὶ δὲ κούφοις
Εὐφημος πίσυνος, Λυγκεὺς γε μὲν ὀξέα τηλοῦ
ὄσσε βαλεῖν: πέμπτος δὲ μετὰ σφίσις ἔσσντο Κάνθος.
τὸν μὲν ἄρ' αἶσα θεῶν κείνην ὁδὸν ἠγορήε τε
ᾔρσεν, ἵν' Ἡρακλῆος ἀπηλεγέως πεπύθοιτο,
1470 Εἰλατίδην Πολύφημον ὅπῃ λίπε: μέμβλετο γὰρ οἱ
οὐ ἔθεν ἀμφ' ἐτάροιο μεταλλῆσαι τὰ ἕκαστα.
ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν οὖν Μυσοῖσιν ἐπικλεῖς ἄστρ' ἀπολίσσας
νόστου κηδοσύνῃσιν ἔβη διζήμενος ῥγῶ
τῆλε δι' ἠπειροῖο: τέως δ' ἐξίκετο γαῖαν
1475 ἀγγιγὰν Χαλύβων: τόθι μιν καὶ Μοῖρ' ἐδάμασσαν.
καὶ οἱ ὑπὸ βλωθρῇν ἀχερωίδα σῆμα τέτυκται
τυτθὸν ἁλὸς προπάροιθεν. ἀτὰρ τότε γ' Ἡρακλῆα
μοῦνον ἀπειρεσίης τηλοῦ χθονὸς εἵσατο Λυγκεὺς
τῶς ιδέειν, ὥς τις τε νέφ' ἐνὶ ἡματι μῆνην
1480 ἦ ἴδεν, ἢ ἐδόκησεν ἐπαχλύουσαν ιδέσθαι.
ἐς δ' ἐτάρους ἀνίων μυθήσατο, μή μιν ἔτ' ἄλλον
μαστῆρα στείχοντα κιχησέμεν: οἳ δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ
ἦλθον, Εὐφημός τε πόδας ταχὺς υἷε τε δοῖω
Θρηκίου Βορέω, μεταμώνια μοχθήσαντε.

[1461] So they spake, and those who were ready for this work answered, and they separated this way and that, each starting to search. For by the night winds the footsteps had been effaced where the sand was stirred. The two sons of Boreas started up, trusting in their wings; and Euphemus, relying on his swift feet, and Lynceus to cast far his piercing eyes; and with them darted off Canthus, the fifth. He was urged on by the doom of the gods and his own courage, that he might learn for certain from Heracles where he had left Polyphemos, son of Eilatus; for he was minded to question him on every point concerning his comrade. But that hero had founded a glorious city among the Mysians, and, yearning for his home-return, had passed far over the mainland in search of Argo; and in time he reached the land of the Chalybes, who dwell near the sea; there it was that his fate subdued him. And to him a monument stands under a tall poplar, just facing the sea. But that day Lynceus thought he saw Heracles all alone, far off, over measureless land, as a man at the month's

beginning sees, or thinks he sees, the moon through a bank of cloud. And he returned and told his comrades that no other searcher would find Heracles on his way, and they also came back, and swift-footed Euphemus and the twin sons of Thracian Boreas, after a vain toil.

1485 Κάνθε, σὲ δ' οὐλόμεναι Λιβύῃ ἐνὶ Κῆρες ἔλοντο.

πάεσι φερβομένοισι συνήντεες· εἵπετο δ' ἀνὴρ
αὐλίτης, ὃ σ' ἔῶν μῆλων πέρι, τόφρ' ἐτάροισιν
δευομένοις κομίσειας, ἀλεξόμενος κατέπεφνε
λαῖ βαλὼν· ἐπεὶ οὐ μὲν ἀφανυρότερός γ' ἐτέτυκτο,

1490 νίωνὸς Φοῖβοιο Λυκωρείοιο Κάφαυρος
κούρης τ' αἰδοίης Ἀκακαλλίδος, ἣν ποτε Μίνως
ἐς Αἰβύην ἀπένασσε θεοῦ βαρὺ κῦμα φέρουσαν,
θυγατέρα σφετέρην· ἥ δ' ἀγλαὸν υἷα Φοῖβῳ
τίκτεν, ὃν Ἀμφίθεμιν Γαράμαντά τε κικλήσκουσιν.

1495 Ἀμφίθεμις δ' ἄρ' ἔπειτα μίγῃ Τριτωνίδι νύμφῃ·
ἥ δ' ἄρα οἱ Νασάμωνα τέκεν κρατερόν τε Κάφαυρον,
ὃς τότε Κάνθον ἔπεφνε ἐπὶ ῥήνεσσιν ἐοῖσιν.

οὐδ' ὄγ' ἀριστήων χαλεπὰς ἠλεύατο χεῖρας,
ὥς μάθον οἷον ἔρεξε. νέκυν δ' ἀνάειραν ὀπίσσω

1500 πευθόμενοι Μινύαι, γαίῃ δ' ἐνὶ ταρχύσαντο
μυρόμενοι· τὰ δὲ μῆλα μετὰ σφέας οἷγ' ἐκόμισσαν.

[1485] But thee, Canthus, the fates of death seized in Libya. On pasturing flocks didst thou light; and there followed a shepherd who, in defence of his own sheep, while thou weft leading them off to thy comrades in their need, slew thee by the cast of a stone; for he was no weakling, Caphaurus, the grandson of Lycorean Phoebus and the chaste maiden Acacallis, whom once Minos drove from home to dwell in Libya, his own daughter, when she was bearing the gods' heavy load; and she bare to Phoebus a glorious son, whom they call Amphithemis and Garamas. And Amphithemis wedded a Tritonian nymph; and she bare to him Nasamon and strong Caphaurus, who on that day in defending his sheep slew Canthus. But he escaped not the chieftains' avenging hands, when they learned the deed he had done. And the Minyae, when they knew it, afterwards took up the corpse and buried it in the earth, mourning; and the sheep they took with them.

ἐνθα καὶ Ἀμπυκίδην αὐτῷ ἐνὶ ἥματι Μόψον
νηλειῆς ἔλε πότμος· ἀδευκέα δ' οὐ φύγεν αἴσαν
μαντοσύνας· οὐ γάρ τις ἀποτροπὴ θανάτοιο.

1505 κεῖτο δ' ἐπὶ ψαμάθοισι μεσημβρινὸν ἦμαρ ἀλύσκων
δεινὸς ὄφις, νωθὴς μὲν ἐκὼν ἀέκοντα χαλέψαι·
οὐδ' ἂν ὑποτρέσσαντος ἐνωπαδὶς αἰξίειν.
ἀλλὰ μὲν ᾧ τὰ πρῶτα μελάγχμιον ἰὼν ἐνείη
ζώντων, ὅσα γαῖα φερέσβιος ἔμπνοα βόσκει,

1510 οὐδ' ὁπόσον πῆχυνον ἐς Ἄϊδα γίνεται οἶμος,
 οὐδ' εἰ Παιήων, εἴ μοι θέμις ἀμπαδὸν εἰπεῖν,
 φαρμάσσοι, ὅτε μούνον ἐνιχρίμνησιν ὁδοῦσιν.
 εὔτε γὰρ ἰσόθεος Λιβύην ὑπερέπτατο Περσεὺς
 Εὐρυμέδων — καὶ γὰρ τὸ κάλεσκέ μιν οὔνομα μήτηρ —
 1515 Γοργόνης ἀρτίτομον κεφαλὴν βασιλῆι κομίζων,
 ὅσσαι κυανέου στάγες αἵματος οὔδας ἴκοντο,
 αἱ πᾶσαι κείνων ὀφίων γένος ἐβλάστησαν.
 τῷ δ' ἄκρην ἐπ' ἄκανθαν ἐνεστηρίζατο Μόψος
 λαιὸν ἐπιπροφέρων ταρσὸν ποδός· αὐτὰρ ὁ μέσσην
 1520 κερκίδα καὶ μυῶνα, πέριξ ὀδύνησιν ἐλιχθεῖς,
 σάρκα δακῶν ἐχάραξεν. ἀτὰρ Μῆδεια καὶ ἄλλαι
 ἔτρεσαν ἀμφίπολοι· ὁ δὲ φοίνιον ἔλκος ἄφασσεν
 θαρσαλέως, ἔνεκ' οὐ μιν ὑπέρβιον ἄλγος ἔτειρεν.
 σχέτλιος· ἧ τέ οἱ ἤδη ὑπὸ χροῖ δύετο κῶμα
 1525 λυσιμελές, πολλὴ δὲ κατ' ὀφθαλμῶν χέετ' ἀχλὺς.
 αὐτίκα δὲ κλίνας δαπέδῳ βεβαρηότα γυνῆ
 ψύχετ' ἀμηχανίῃ· ἔταροι δὲ μιν ἀμπαγέροντο
 ἥρωες τ' Αἰσονίδης, ἀδινῇ περιθαμβέες ἄτη.
 οὐδὲ μὲν οὐδ' ἐπὶ τυτθὸν ἀποφθίμενός περ ἔμελλεν
 1530 κεῖσθαι ὑπ' ἡελίῳ. πύθεσκε γὰρ ἔνδοθι σάρκας
 ἰὸς ἄφαρ, μυδόωσα δ' ἀπὸ χροὸς ἔρρεε λάχνη.
 αἶψα δὲ χαλκείῃσι βαθὺν τάφον ἐξελάχαινον
 ἐσσυμένως μακέλησιν· ἐμοιρήσαντο δὲ χαίτας
 αὐτοὶ ὁμῶς κοῦραί τε, νέκυν ἐλεεινὰ παθόντα
 1535 μυρόμενοι· τρις δ' ἀμφὶ σὺν ἔντεσι δινηθέντες
 εὔ κτερέων ἴσχοντα, χυτὴν ἐπὶ γαῖαν ἔθεντο.

[1502] Thereupon on the same day a pitiless fate seized Mopsus too, son of Ampycus; and he escaped not a bitter doom by his prophesying; for there is no averting of death. Now there lay in the sand, avoiding the midday heat, a dread serpent, too sluggish of his own will to strike at an unwilling foe, nor yet would he dart full face at one that would shrink back. But into whatever of all living beings that life-giving earth sustains that serpent once injects his black venom, his path to Hades becomes not so much as a cubit's length, not even if Paeon, if it is right for me to say this openly, should tend him, when its teeth have only grazed the skin. For when over Libya flew godlike Perseus Eurymedon for by that name his mother called him — bearing to the king the Gorgon's head newly severed, all the drops of dark blood that fell to the earth, produced a brood of those serpents. Now Mopsus stepped on the end of its spine, setting thereon the sole of his left foot; and it writhed round in pain and bit and tore the flesh between the shin and the muscles. And Medea and her handmaids fled in terror; but Canthus bravely felt the bleeding wound; for no excessive pain harassed him. Poor wretch! Already a numbness that loosed his limbs was stealing beneath his skin, and a thick mist was spreading over his

eyes. Straightway his heavy limbs sank helplessly to the ground and he grew cold; and his comrades and the hero, Aeson's son, gathered round, marvelling at the close-coming doom. Nor yet though dead might he lie beneath the sun even for a little space. For at once the poison began to rot his flesh within, and the hair decayed and fell from the skin. And quickly and in haste they dug a deep grave with mattocks of bronze; and they tore their hair, the heroes and the maidens, bewailing the dead man's piteous suffering; and when he had received due burial rites, thrice they marched round the tomb in full armour, and heaped above him a mound of earth.

ἀλλ' ὅτε δὴ ῥ' ἐπὶ νηὸς ἔβαν, πρήσοντος ἀήτεω
ἄμ πέλαγος νοτίοιο, πόρους τ' ἀπετεκμήραντο
λίμνης ἐκπρομολεῖν Τριτωνίδος, οὔτινα μῆτιν
1540 δὴν ἔχον, ἀφραδέως δὲ πανημέριοι φορέοντο.
ὥς δὲ δράκων σκολιὴν εἰλιγμένος ἔρχεται οἶμον,
εὗτε μιν ὀξύτατον θάλλει σέλας ἡελίοιο:
ροῖζω δ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα κάρη στρέφει, ἐν δέ οἱ ὅσσε
σπινθαρύγεσσι πυρὸς ἐναλίγκια μαιμώνοντι
1545 λάμπεται, ὄφρα μυχόνδε διὰ ῥωχοῖο δύηται:
ὥς Ἀργῶ λίμνης στόμα ναύπορον ἐξερέουσα
ἀμφεπόλει δηναιὸν ἐπὶ χρόνον. αὐτίκα δ' Ὀρφεὺς
κέκλετ' Ἀπόλλωνος τρίποδα μέγαν ἔκτοθι νηὸς
δαίμοσιν ἐγγενέταις νόστω ἐπὶ μείλια θέσθαι.
1550 καὶ τοὶ μὲν Φοῖβου κτέρας ἴδρυν ἐν χθονὶ βάντες:
τοῖσιν δ' αἰζηῷ ἐναλίγκιος ἀντεβόλησεν
τρίτων εὐρυβίης, γαίης δ' ἀνὰ βῶλον αἶερας
ξεῖνι' ἀριστήεσσι προΐσχετο, φώνησέν τε:
'Δέχθε, φίλοι: ἐπεὶ οὐ περιώσιον ἐγγυαλίζαι
1555 ἐνθάδε νῦν πάρ' ἐμοὶ ξεινήιον ἀντομένοισιν.
εἰ δέ τι τῆσδε πόρους μαίεσθ' ἄλός, οἶά τε πολλὰ
ἄνθρωποι χατέουσιν ἐπ' ἄλλοδαπῇ περόωντες,
ἐξερέω. δὴ γάρ με πατὴρ ἐπίστορα πόντου
θήκε Ποσειδάων τοῦδ' ἔμμεναι. αὐτὰρ ἀνάσσω
1560 παρραλῆς, εἰ δὴ τιν' ἀκούετε νόσφιν ἐόντες
Εὐρύπυλον Λιβύῃ θηροτρόφῳ ἐγγεγαῶτα.'

[1537] But when they had gone aboard, as the south wind blew over the sea, and they were searching for a passage to go forth from the Tritonian lake, for long they had no device, but all the day were borne on aimlessly. And as a serpent goes writhing along his crooked path when the sun's fiercest rays scorch him; and with a hiss he turns his head to this side and that, and in his fury his eyes glow like sparks of fire, until he creeps to his lair through a cleft in the rock; so Argo seeking an outlet from the lake, a fairway for ships, wandered for a long time. Then straightway Orpheus bade them bring forth from the ship Apollo's massy tripod and offer it to the gods of the land as propitiation for

their return. So they went forth and set Apollo's gift on the shore; then before them stood, in the form of a youth, farswearing Triton, and he lifted a clod from the earth and offered it as a stranger's gift, and thus spake: "Take it, friends, for no stranger's gift of great worth have I here by me now to place in the hands of those who beseech me. But if ye are searching for a passage through this sea, as often is the need of men passing through a strange land, I will declare it. For my sire Poseidon has made me to be well versed in this sea. And I rule the shore if haply in your distant land you have ever heard of Eurypylus, born in Libya, the home of wild beasts."

ὥς ἡῦδα: πρόφρων δ' ὑπερέσχεθε βόλακι χεῖρας
Εὐφημος, καὶ τοῖα παραβλήδην προσέειπεν:
'Ἀπίδα καὶ πέλαγος Μινώιον εἴ νύ που, ἦρως,
1565 ἐξεδάης, νημερτὲς ἀνειρομένοισιν ἔνισπε.
δεῦρο γὰρ οὐκ ἐθέλοντες ἰκάνομεν, ἀλλὰ βαρείαις
χρίμψαντες γαίης ἐπὶ πείρασι τῆσδε θυέλλαις
νῆα μεταχρονίην ἐκομίσσαμεν ἐς τόδε λίμνης
χεῦμα δι' ἡπείρου βεβαρημένοι: οὐδέ τι ἴδμεν,
1570 πῇ πλόος ἐξανέχει Πελοπιίδα γαῖαν ἰκέσθαι.'

[1562] Thus he spake, and readily Euphemus held out his hands towards the clod, and thus addressed him in reply: "If haply, hero, thou knowest aught of Apis and the sea of Minos, tell us truly, who ask it of you. For not of our will have we come hither, but by the stress of heavy storms have we touched the borders of this land, and have borne our ship aloft on our shoulders to the waters of this lake over the mainland, grievously burdened; and we know not where a passage shows itself for our course to the land of Pelops."

ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη: ὁ δὲ χεῖρα τανύσσατο, δεῖξε δ' ἄπωθεν
φωνήσας πόντον τε καὶ ἀγχιβαθὲς στόμα λίμνης:
'κείνη μὲν πόντοιο διήλυσις, ἔνθα μάλιστα
βένθος ἀκίνητον μελανεῖ: ἐκάτερθε δὲ λευκαὶ
1575 ῥηγμῖνες φρίσσουσι διαυγέες: ἡ δὲ μεσηγὺ
ῥηγμίνων στεινὴ τελέθει ὁδὸς ἐκτὸς ἐλάσσαι.
κεῖνο δ' ὑπὲριον θείην Πελοπιίδα γαῖαν
εἰσανέχει πέλαγος Κρήτης ὕπερ: ἀλλ' ἐπὶ χειρὸς
δεξιτερῆς, λίμνηθεν ὅτ' εἰς ἄλδος οἶδμα βάλητε,
1580 τόφρ' αὐτὴν παρὰ χέρσον ἐεργμένοι ἰθύνεσθε,
ἔστ' ἂν ἄνω τείνησι: περιρρήδην δ' ἐτέρωσε
κλινομένης χέρσοιο, τότε πλόος ὕμιν ἀπήμων
ἀγκῶνος τέτατ' ἰθὺς ἀπὸ προύχοντος ἰοῦσιν.
ἀλλ' ἴτε γηθόσυνοι, καμάτοιο δὲ μήτις ἀνίη
1585 γιγνέσθω, νεότητι κεκασμένα γυῖα μογῆσαι.'

[1571] So he spake; and Triton stretched out his hand and showed afar the sea and the lake's deep mouth, and then addressed them: "That is the outlet to the

sea, where the deep water lies unmoved and dark; on each side roll white breakers with shining crests; and the way between for your passage out is narrow. And that sea stretches away in mist to the divine land of Pelops beyond Crete; but hold to the right, when ye have entered the swell of the sea from the lake, and steer your course hugging the land, as long as it trends to the north; but when the coast bends, falling away in the other direction, then your course is safely laid for you if ye go straight forward from the projecting cape. But go in joy, and as for labour let there be no grieving that limbs in youthful vigour should still toil.”

Ἦσκεν εὐφρονέων· οἱ δ' αἶψ' ἐπὶ νηὸς ἔβησαν
λίμνης ἐκπρομολεῖν λεληημένοι εἰρεσίησιν.
καὶ δὴ ἐπιπρονέοντο μεμαότες· αὐτὰρ ὁ τείως
τρίτων ἀνθέμενος τρίποδα μέγαν, εἷσατο λίμνην
1590 εἰσβαίνειν· μετὰ δ' οὔτις ἐσέδρακεν, οἷον ἄφαντος
αὐτῷ σὺν τρίποδι σχεδὸν ἔπλετο. τοῖσι δ' ἰάνθη
θυμός, ὃ δὴ μακάρων τις ἐναΐσιμος ἀντεβόλησεν.
καὶ ῥά οἱ Αἰσονίδην μῆλων ὃ τι φέρτατον ἄλλων
ἦνωγον ῥέξαι καὶ ἐπευφημῆσαι ἐλόντα.
1595 αἶψα δ' ὄγ' ἐσσυμένως ἐκρίνατο, καὶ μιν ἀείρας
σφάζε κατὰ πρύμνης, ἐπὶ δ' ἔννεπεν εὐχολῆσιν·
‘δαῖμον, ὅτις λίμνης ἐπὶ πείρασι τῆσδ' ἐφαάνθης,
εἶτε σέγε Τρίτων', ἄλιον τέρας, εἶτε σε Φόρκυν,
ἢ Νηρηῖα θύγατρες ἐπικλείουσ' ἄλοσύδναι,
1600 ἴλαθι, καὶ νόστοιο τέλος θυμηδὲς ὅπαζε.’

[1586] He spake with kindly counsel; and they at once went aboard, intent to come forth from the lake by the use of oars. And eagerly they sped on; meanwhile Triton took up the mighty tripod, and they saw him enter the lake; but thereafter did no one mark how he vanished so near them along with the tripod. But their hearts were cheered, for that one of the blessed had met them in friendly guise. And they bade Aeson's son offer to him the choicest of the sheep and when he had slain it chant the hymn of praise. And straightway he chose in haste and raising the victim slew it over the stern, and prayed with these words: “Thou god, who hast manifested thyself on the borders of this land, whether the daughters born of the sea call thee Triton, the great sea-marvel, or Phorcys, or Nereus, be gracious, and grant the return home dear to our hearts.”

ἦ ῥ', ἄμα δ' εὐχολῆσιν ἐς ὕδατα λαιμοτομήσας
ἦκε κατὰ πρύμνης· ὁ δὲ βένθεος ἐξεφαάνθη
τοῖος ἐών, οἷός περ ἐτήτυμος ἦεν ἰδέσθαι.
ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἀνήρ θοὸν ἵππον ἐς εὐρέα κύκλον ἀγῶνος
1605 στέλλη, ὀρεζάμενος λασίης εὐπειθέα χαίτης,
εἶθαρ ἐπιτροχάων, ὃ δ' ἐπ' αὐχένι γαῦρος ἀερθεῖς

ἔσπεται, ἀργινόνετα δ' ἐνὶ στομάτεσσι χαλινὰ
ἀμφὶς ὀδακτάζοντι παραβλήδην κροτέονται:
ὥς ὃγ' ἐπισχόμενος γλαφυρῆς ὀλκήιον Ἀργοῦς
1610 ἦγ' ἄλαδε προτέρωσε. δέμας δέ οἱ ἐξ ὑπάτοιο
κράατος, ἀμφί τε νῶτα καὶ ἰξύας ἔστ' ἐπὶ νηδὺν
ἀντικρὺ μακάρεσσι φυὴν ἔκπαγλον ἔϊκτο:
αὐτὰρ ὑπαὶ λαγόνων δίκραιρά οἱ ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα
κῆτεος ὀλκαίη μηκύνετο: κόπτε δ' ἀκάνθαις
1615 ἄκρον ὕδωρ, αἳ τε σκολιοῖς ἐπινειόθι κέντροις
μήνης ὥς κεράεσσιν ἐειδόμεναι διχόωντο.
τόφρα δ' ἄγεν, τείως μιν ἐπιπροέηκε θαλάσση
νισσομένην: δῦ δ' αἶψα μέγαν βυθόν: οἱ δ' ὁμάδησαν
ἦρωες, τέρας αἰνὸν ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἰδόντες.
1620 ἔνθα μὲν Ἀργῶός τε λιμὴν καὶ σήματα νηὸς
ἠδὲ Ποσειδάωνος ἰδὲ Τρίτωνος ἕασιν
βωμοί: ἐπεὶ κεῖν' ἦμαρ ἐπέσχεθον. αὐτὰρ ἐς ἡῶ
λαΐφεισι πεπταμένοις αὐτὴν ἐπὶ δεξι' ἔχοντες
γαῖαν ἐρημαίην, πνοιῇ ζεφύροιο θέεσκον.
1625 ἦρι δ' ἔπειτ' ἀγκῶνά θ' ὁμοῦ μυχάτην τε θάλασσαν
κεκλιμένην ἀγκῶνος ὕπερ προύχοντος ἴδοντο.
αὐτίκα δὲ ζέφυρος μὲν ἐλώφειν, ἦλυθε δ' αὔρη
ἀργέσταο νότου: κεχάροντο δὲ θυμὸν ἰωῇ.
ἦμος δ' ἡέλιος μὲν ἔδδυ, ἀνὰ δ' ἦλυθεν ἀστήρ
1630 αὐλιος, ὃς τ' ἀνέπαυσεν οἰζυροὺς ἀροτῆρας,
δὴ τότε ἔπειτ' ἀνέμοιο κελαινῇ νυκτὶ λιπόντος
ἰστία λυσάμενοι περιμήκεά τε κλίναντες
ἰστόν, ἐυξέστησιν ἐπερρώοντ' ἐλάτησιν
παννύχοι καὶ ἐπ' ἦμαρ, ἐπ' ἡματι δ' αὖτις ἰοῦσαν
1635 νύχθ' ἐτέρην. ὑπέδεκτο δ' ἀπόπροθι παιπαλόεσσα
Κάρπαθος: ἔνθεν δ' οἷγε περαιώσεσθαι ἔμελλον
Κρήτην, ἣ τ' ἄλλων ὑπερέπλετο εἰν ἅλι νήσων.

[1601] He spake, and cut the victim's throat over the water and cast it from the stern. And the god rose up from the depths in form such as he really was. And as when a man trains a swift steed for the broad race-course, and runs along, grasping the bushy mane, while the steed follows obeying his master, and rears his neck aloft in his pride, and the gleaming bit rings loud as he champs it in his jaws from side to side; so the god, seizing hollow Argo's keel, guided her onward to the sea. And his body, from the crown of his head, round his back and waist as far as the belly, was wondrously like that of the blessed ones in form; but below his sides the tail of a sea monster lengthened far, forking to this side and that; and he smote the surface of the waves with the spines, which below parted into curving fins, like the horns of the new moon. And he guided Argo on until he sped her into the sea on her course; and quickly he plunged into the vast abyss; and the heroes shouted when they

gazed with their eyes on that dread portent. There is the harbour of Argo and there are the signs of her stay, and altars to Poseidon and Triton; for during that day they tarried. But at dawn with sails outspread they sped on before the breath of the west wind, keeping the desert land on their right. And on the next morn they saw the headland and the recess of the sea, bending inward beyond the jutting headland. And straightway the west wind ceased, and there came the breeze of the clear south wind; and their hearts rejoiced at the sound it made. But when the sun sank and the star returned that bids the shepherd fold, which brings rest to wearied ploughmen, at that time the wind died down in the dark night; so they furled the sails and lowered the tall mast and vigorously plied their polished oars all night and through the day, and again when the next night came on. And rugged Carpathus far away welcomed them; and thence they were to cross to Crete, which rises in the sea above other islands.

τοὺς δὲ Τάλως χάλκειος, ἀπὸ στιβαροῦ σκοπέλοιο
ῥηγνύμενος πέτρας, εἶργε χθονὶ πείσματ' ἀνάψαι,
1640 Δικταίην ὄρμοιο κατερχομένους ἐπιωγήν:
τὸν μὲν χαλκείης μελιγενέων ἀνθρώπων
ρίζης λοιπὸν ἔοντα μετ' ἀνδράσιν ἡμιθέοισιν
Εὐρώπῃ Κρονίδης νήσου πόρεν ἔμμεναι σῦρον,
τρὶς περὶ χαλκείοις Κρήτην ποσὶ δινεύοντα.
1645 ἀλλ' ἦτοι τὸ μὲν ἄλλο δέμας καὶ γυῖα τέτυκτο
χάλκεος ἡδ' ἄρρηκτος: ὑπαὶ δέ οἱ ἔσκε τένοντος
σύριγξ αἱματόεσσα κατὰ σφυρόν: αὐτὰρ ὃ τ' ἦγχε
λεπτὸς ὕμῃν ζωῆς ἔχε πείρατα καὶ θανάτοιο.
οἱ δέ, δῦη μάλα περ δεδμημένοι, αἶψ' ἀπὸ χέρσου
1650 νῆα περιδδείσαντες ἀνακρούεσκον ἐρετμοῖς.
καὶ νύ κ' ἐπισμυγεῶς Κρήτης ἐκὰς ἠέρθησαν,
ἀμφότερον δίψῃ τε καὶ ἄλγεσι μοχθίζοντες,
εἰ μὴ σφιν Μήδεια λιαζομένοις ἀγόρευσεν:
'κέκλυτέ μεν. μούνη γὰρ οἶομαι ὕμμι δαμάσσειν
1655 ἄνδρα τόν, ὅστις ὄδ' ἐστί, καὶ εἰ παγχάλκεον ἴσχει
ὄν δέμας, ὅπποτε μὴ οἱ ἐπ' ἀκάματος πέλοι αἰών.
ἀλλ' ἔχετ' αὐτοῦ νῆα θελήμονες ἐκτὸς ἐρωῆς
πετράων, εἴως κεν ἐμοὶ εἴξειε δαμῆναι.'

[1638] And Talos, the man of bronze, as he broke off rocks from the hard cliff, stayed them from fastening hawsers to the shore, when they came to the roadstead of Dicté's haven. He was of the stock of bronze, of the men sprung from ash-trees, the last left among the sons of the gods; and the son of Cronos gave him to Europa to be the warder of Crete and to stride round the island thrice a day with his feet of bronze. Now in all the rest of his body and limbs was he fashioned of bronze and invulnerable; but beneath the sinew by his ankle was a blood-red vein; and this, with its issues of life and death, was

covered by a thin skin. So the heroes, though outworn with toil, quickly backed their ship from the land in sore dismay. And now far from Crete would they have been borne in wretched plight, distressed both by thirst and pain, had not Medea addressed them as they turned away: "Hearken to me. For I deem that I alone can subdue for you that man, whoever he be, even though his frame be of bronze throughout, unless his life too is everlasting. But be ready to keep your ship here beyond the cast of his stones, till he yield the victory to me."

ὥς ἄρ' ἔφη· καὶ τοὶ μὲν ὑπὲκ βελέων ἐρύσαντο
1660 νῆ' ἐπ' ἐρετμοῖσιν, δεδοκήμενοι ἦντινα ῥέξει
μῆτιν ἀνωίστως· ἡ δὲ πτύχα πορφυρέοιο
προσχομένη πέπλοιο παρειάων ἐκάτερθεν
βήσατ' ἐπ' ἰκριόφιν· χειρὸς δέ ἐ χειρὶ μεμαρπῶς
Αἰσονίδης ἐκόμιζε διὰ κληῖδας ἰοῦσαν.
1665 ἔνθα δ' αἰοιδῆσιν μειλίσσεται, μέλπε δὲ Κῆρας
θυμοβόρους, Αἶδαο θαῶς κύνας, αἱ περὶ πᾶσαν
ἡέρα δινεύουσαι ἐπὶ ζωοῖσιν ἄγονται.
τὰς γουναζομένη τρις μὲν παρεκέκλετ' αἰοιδᾷς,
τρις δὲ λιταῖς· θεμένη δὲ κακὸν νόον, ἐχθοδοποῖσιν
1670 ὄμμασι χαλκείοιο Τάλῳ ἐμέγηρεν ὀπωπᾶς·
λευγαλέον δ' ἐπὶ οἱ πρῖεν χόλον, ἐκ δ' αἰδήλα
δείκνυλα προΐαλλεν, ἐπιζάφελον κοτεύουσα.

[1659] Thus she spake; and they drew the ship out of range, resting on their oars, waiting to see what plan unlooked for she would bring to pass; and she, holding the fold of her purple robe over her cheeks on each side, mounted on the deck; and Aeson's son took her hand in his and guided her way along the thwarts. And with songs did she propitiate and invoke the Death- spirits, devourers of life, the swift hounds of Hades, who, hovering through all the air, swoop down on the living. Kneeling in supplication, thrice she called on them with songs, and thrice with prayers; and, shaping her soul to mischief, with her hostile glance she bewitched the eyes of Talos, the man of bronze; and her teeth gnashed bitter wrath against him, and she sent forth baneful phantoms in the frenzy of her rage.

Ζεῦ πάτερ, ἥ μέγα δὴ μοι ἐνὶ φρεσὶ θάμβος ἄηται,
εἰ δὴ μὴ νοῦσοισι τυπῆσιν τε μοῦνον ὄλεθρος
1675 ἀντιάει, καὶ δὴ τις ἀπόπροθεν ἄμμε χαλέπτει.
ὥς ὅγε χάλκειός περ ἐὼν ὑπέειξε δαμῆναι
Μηδείης βρίμη πολυφαρμάκου. ἂν δὲ βαρείας
ὀχλίζων λάιγγας, ἐρυκέμεν ὄρμον ἰκέσθαι.
πετραίῳ στόνυχι χρίμψε σφυρόν· ἐκ δὲ οἱ ἰχῶρ
1680 τηκομένῳ ἵκελος μολίβῳ ῥέεν· οὐδ' ἔτι δηρὸν
εἰσίστηκει προβλήτος ἐπεμβεβαῶς σκοπέλοιο.

ἀλλ' ὥς τις τ' ἐν ὄρεσσι πελωρίῃ ὑψόθι πεύκη,
τὴν τε θοοῖς πελέκεσσιν ἔθ' ἡμιπλήγα λιπόντες
ὕλοτόμοι δρυμοῖο κατήλυθον: ἡ δ' ὑπὸ νυκτὶ
1685 ῥιπῆσιν μὲν πρῶτα τινάσσεται, ὕστερον αὖτε
πρυμνόθεν ἐξαγεῖσα κατήριπεν: ὥς ὅγε ποσσὶν
ἀκαμάτοις τείως μὲν ἐπισταδὸν ἡωρεῖτο,
ὕστερον αὖτ' ἀμενηνὸς ἀπείροني κάπτεσε δούπῳ.
κεῖνο μὲν οὖν Κρήτῃ ἐνὶ δὴ κνέφας ἠὲ λίζοντο
1690 ἥρωες: μετὰ δ' οἷγε νέον φαέθουσας ἐς ἡδὴ
ἱρὸν Ἀθηναίης Μινωίδος ἰδρῦσαντο,
ὔδωρ τ' εἰσαφύσαντο καὶ εἰσέβαν, ὥς κεν ἔρετμοῖς
παμπρώτιστα βάλοιεν ὑπὲρ Σαλμωνίδος ἄκρης.

[1673] Father Zeus, surely great wonder rises in my mind, seeing that dire destruction meets us not from disease and wounds alone, but lo! even from afar, may be, it tortures us! So Talos, for all his frame of bronze, yielded the victory to the might of Medea the sorceress. And as he was heaving massy rocks to stay them from reaching the haven, he grazed his ankle on a pointed crag; and the ichor gushed forth like melted lead; and not long thereafter did he stand towering on the jutting cliff. But even as some huge pine, high up on the mountains, which woodmen have left half hewn through by their sharp axes when they returned from the forest — at first it shivers in the wind by night, then at last snaps at the stump and crashes down; so Talos for a while stood on his tireless feet, swaying to and fro, when at last, all strengthless, fell with a mighty thud. For that night there in Crete the heroes lay; then, just as dawn was growing bright, they built a shrine to Minoan Athena, and drew water and went aboard, so that first of all they might by rowing pass beyond Salmone's height.

Λύτικα δὲ Κρηταῖον ὑπὲρ μέγα λαῖτμα θέοντας
1695 νῦξ ἐφόβει, τήνπερ τε κατουλάδα κυκλήσκουσιν:
νύκτ' ὁλοὴν οὐκ ἄστρα δῖισχανεν, οὐκ ἀμαρυναὶ
μήνης: οὐρανόθεν δὲ μέλαν χάος, ἥε τις ἄλλη
ὥρώρει σκοτὶή μυχάτων ἀνιοῦσα βερέθρων.
αὐτοὶ δ', εἴτ' Αἴδη, εἴθ' ὕδασιν ἐμπορέοντο,
1700 ἡεῖδειν οὐδ' ὅσσον: ἐπέτρεψαν δὲ θαλάσση
νόστον, ἀμηχανέοντες, ὅπη φέροι. αὐτὰρ Ἴησων
χεῖρας ἀνασχόμενος μεγάλη ὅπῃ Φοῖβον αὐτεῖ,
ῥύσασθαι καλέων: κατὰ δ' ἔρρεεν ἀσχαλῶντι
δάκρυα: πολλὰ δὲ Πυθοῖ ὑπέσχετο, πολλὰ δ' Ἀμύκλαις,
1705 πολλὰ δ' ἐς Ὀρτυγίην ἀπερείσια δῶρα κομίσσειν.
Λητοῖδῃ, τύνῃ δὲ κατ' οὐρανοῦ ἵκεο πέτρας
ρίμφα Μελαντίους ἀριήκοος, αἳ τ' ἐνὶ πόντῳ
ἦνται: δοιᾶων δὲ μιῆς ἐφύπερθεν ὀρούσας,
δεξιτερῇ χρύσειον ἀνέσχεθες ὑψόθι τόξον:

1710 μαρμαρέην δ' ἀπέλαμψε βιὸς περὶ πάντοθεν αἶγλην.
 τοῖσι δέ τις Σποράδων βαιὴ ἀπὸ τόφρ' ἐφαάνθη
 νῆσος ἰδεῖν, ὀλίγης Ἰππουρίδος ἀντία νήσου,
 ἔνθ' εὐνὰς ἐβάλοντο καὶ ἔσχεθον· αὐτίκα δ' Ἡὼς
 φέγγεν ἀνερχομένη· τοῖ δ' ἄγλαὸν Ἀπόλλωνι
 1715 ἄλσει ἐνὶ σκιερῷ τέμενος σκιόεντά τε βωμὸν
 ποίεον, Αἰγλήτην μὲν εὐσκόπου εἵνεκεν αἶγλης
 Φοῖβον κεκλόμενοι· Ἀνάφην δέ τε λισσάδα νήσον
 ἴσκον, ὃ δὴ Φοῖβός μιν ἀτυζομένοις ἀνέφηνεν.
 ῥέζον δ' ὅσσα περ ἄνδρες ἐρημαίῃ ἐνὶ ῥέξειν
 1720 ἀκτῇ ἐφοπλίσσειαν· ὃ δὴ σφεας ὀππότε δαλοῖς
 ὕδωρ αἰθομένοισιν ἐπιλλείβοντας ἴδοντο
 Μηδείης δμῳαὶ Φαιηκίδες, οὐκέτ' ἔπειτα
 ἴσχειν ἐν στήθεσσι γέλω σθένον, οἷα θαμειὰς
 αἰὲν ἐν Ἀλκινόοιο βοοκτασίας ὀρώσας.
 1725 τὰς δ' αἰσχροῖς ἥρωες ἐπεστοβέεσκον ἔπεσσιν
 χλεύη γηθόσυννοι· γλυκερὴ δ' ἀνεδαίετο τοῖσιν
 κερτομή καὶ νεῖκος ἐπεσβόλον. ἐκ δέ νυ κείνης
 μολπῆς ἡρώων νήσῳ ἐνὶ τοῖα γυναῖκες
 ἀνδράσι δηριόωνται, ὅτ' Ἀπόλλωνα θυγαῖς
 1730 Αἰγλήτην Ἀνάφης τιμήορον ἰλάσκωνται.

[1694] But straightway as they sped over the wide Cretan sea night scared them, that night which they name the Pall of Darkness; the stars pierced not that fatal night nor the beams of the moon, but black chaos descended from heaven, or haply some other darkness came, rising from the nethermost depths. And the heroes, whether they drifted in Hades or on the waters, knew not one whit; but they committed their return to the sea in helpless doubt whither it was bearing them. But Jason raised his hands and cried to Phoebus with mighty voice, calling on him to save them; and the tears ran down in his distress; and often did he promise to bring countless offerings to Pytho, to Amyclae, and to Ortygia. And quickly, O son of Leto, swift to hear, didst thou come down from heaven to the Melantian rocks, which lie there in the sea. Then darting upon one of the twin peaks, thou raisedst aloft in thy right hand thy golden bow; and the bow flashed a dazzling gleam all round. And to their sight appeared a small island of the Sporades, over against the tiny isle Hippuris, and there they cast anchor and stayed; and straightway dawn arose and gave them light; and they made for Apollo a glorious abode in a shady wood, and a shady altar, calling on Phoebus the "Gleamer", because of the gleam far-seen; and that bare island they called Anaphe, for that Phoebus had revealed it to men sore bewildered. And they sacrificed all that men could provide for sacrifice on a desolate strand; wherefore when Medea's Phaeacian handmaids saw them pouring water for libations on the burning brands, they could no longer restrain laughter within their bosoms, for that ever they had seen oxen in plenty slain in the halls of Alcinous. And the heroes delighted in

the jest and attacked them with taunting words; and merry railing and contention flung to and fro were kindled among them. And from that sport of the heroes such scoffs do the women fling at the men in that island whenever they propitiate with sacrifices Apollo the gleaming god, the warder of Anaphe.

ἀλλ' ὅτε δὴ κάκειθεν ὑπεύδια πείσματ' ἔλυσαν,
μνήσατ' ἔπειτ' Εὐφημος ὀνείρατος ἐννυχίοιο,
ἄζόμενος Μαΐης υἱὰ κλυτόν. εἷσατο γάρ οἱ
δαιμονίη βῶλαξ ἐπιμάστιος ᾧ ἐν ἀγοστῷ
1735 ἄρδεσθαι λευκῇσιν ὑπαὶ λιβάδεσσι γάλακτος,
ἐκ δὲ γυνὴ βῶλοιο πέλειν ὀλίγης περ ἐούσης
παρθενικῇ ἱκέλη· μίχθη δέ οἱ ἐν φιλότῃτι
ἄσχετον ἱμερθεῖς· ὀλοφύρετο δ' ἥνυτε κούρην
ζευξάμενος, τήν τ' αὐτὸς ἐῷ ἀτίταλλε γάλακτι·
1740 ἣ δὲ ἐμειλιχίοισι παρηγορέεσκ' ἐπέεσσιν·
'Τρίτωνος γένος εἰμί, τεῶν τροφός, ᾧ φίλε, παίδων,
οὐ κούρη· τρίτων γὰρ ἐμοὶ Λιβύη τε τοκῆς.
ἀλλὰ με Νηρηῶς παρακάτθεο παρθενικῇσιν
ἄμ' ἐλάγος ναίειν Ἀνάφης σχεδόν· εἴμι δ' ἐς αὐγὰς
1745 ἡελίου μετόπισθε, τεοῖς νεπόδεσσιν ἐτοίμη.'

[1731] But when they had loosed the hawsers thence in fair weather, then Euphemus bethought him of a dream of the night, reverencing the glorious son of Maia. For it seemed to him that the god-given clod of earth held in his palm close to his breast was being suckled by white streams of milk, and that from it, little though it was, grew a woman like a virgin; and he, overcome by strong desire, lay with her in love's embrace; and united with her he pitied her, as though she were a maiden whom he was feeding with his own milk; but she comforted him with gentle words:) "Daughter of Triton am I, dear friend, and nurse of thy children, no maiden; Triton and Libya are my parents. But restore me to the daughters of Nereus to dwell in the sea near Anaphe; I shall return again to the light of the sun, to prepare a home for thy descendants."

τῷ δ' ἄρ' ἐπὶ μνήσῃσιν κραδίη βάλεν, ἔκ τ' ὀνόμηνεν
Αἰσονίδῃ· ὁ δ' ἔπειτα θεοπροπίας Ἐκάτοιο
θυμῷ πεμπάζων ἀνενείκατο φώνησέν τε·
'ὧ πέπον, ἦ μέγα δὴ δε καὶ ἀγλαὸν ἔμμορε κῦδος.
1750 βῶλακα γὰρ τεύξουσι θεοὶ πόντονδε βαλόντι
νῆσον, ἴν' ὀπλότεροι παίδων δέθεν ἐννάσσονται
παῖδες· ἐπεὶ Τρίτων ξεινήιον ἐγγυάλιζεν
τήνδε τοι ἡπείροιο Λιβυστίδος. οὐ νύ τις ἄλλος
ἀθανάτων, ἢ κείνος, ὃ μιν πόρεν ἀντιβολήσας.'

[1746] Of this he stored in his heart the memory, and declared it to Aeson's son; and Jason pondered a prophecy of the Far-Darter and lifted up his voice and

said: "My friend, great and glorious renown has fallen to thy lot. For of this clod when thou hast cast it into the sea, the gods will make an island, where thy children's children shall dwell; for Triton gave this to thee as a stranger's gift from the Libyan mainland. None other of the immortals it was than he that gave thee this when he met thee."

1755 ὥς ἔφατ'· οὐδ' ἀλίωσεν ὑπόκρισιν Αἰσονίδαο

Εὐφημος· βῶλον δέ, θεοπροπίησιν ἰανθείς,
ἦκεν ὑποβρυχίην. τῆς δ' ἔκτοθι νῆσος ἀέρθη
καλλίστη, παίδων ἱερὴ τροφὸς Εὐφήμοιο,
οἳ πρὶν μὲν ποτε δὴ Σιντηίδα Λῆμνον ἔναιον,

1760 Λήμνου τ' ἐξελαθέντες ὑπ' ἀνδράσι Τυρσηνοῖσιν

Σπάρτην εἰσαφίκανον ἐφέστιοι· ἐκ δὲ λιπόντας

Σπάρτην Αὐτεσίωνος εὖς πάις ἤγαγε Θήρας
καλλίστην ἐπὶ νῆσον, ἀμείψατο δ' οὔνομα Θήρης
ἐξ ἔθεν. ἀλλὰ τὰ μὲν μετόπιν γένετ' Εὐφήμοιο.

[1755] Thus he spake; and Euphemus made not vain the answer of Aeson's son; but, cheered by the prophecy, he cast the clod into the depths. Therefrom rose up an island, Calliste, sacred nurse of the sons of Euphemus, who in former days dwelt in Sintian Lemnos, and from Lemnos were driven forth by Tyrrhenians and came to Sparta as suppliants; and when they left Sparta, Theras, the goodly son of Autesion, brought them to the island Calliste, and from himself he gave it the name of Thera. But this befell after the days of Euphemus.

1765 κεῖθεν δ' ἀπτερέως διὰ μυρίον οἶδμα λιπόντες

Αἰγίνης ἀκτῆσιν ἐπέσχεθον· αἶψα δὲ τοίγε

ὑδρεῖς πέρι δῆριν ἀμεμφέα δηρίσαντο,

ὃς κεν ἀφυσσάμενος φθαίη μετὰ νῆάδ' ἰκέσθαι.

ἄμφο γὰρ χρειώ τε καὶ ἄσπετος οὔρος ἔπειγεν.

1770 ἔνθ' ἔτι νῦν πλήθοντας ἐπωμαδὸν ἀμφιφορῆας

ἀνθέμενοι κούφοισιν ἄφαρ κατ' ἀγῶνα πόδεσσιν

κοῦροι Μυρμιδόνων νίκης πέρι δηριόωνται.

[1765] And thence they steadily left behind long leagues of sea and stayed on the beach of Aegina; and at once they contended in innocent strife about the fetching of water, who first should draw it and reach the ship. For both their need and the ceaseless breeze urged them on. There even to this day do the youths of the Myrmidons take up on their shoulders full- brimming jars, and with swift feet strive for victory in the race.

Ἴλατ' ἀριστήων μακάρων γένος· αἶδε δ' αἰοδαί

εἰς ἔτος ἐξ ἔτεος γλυκερώτεραι εἶεν ἀεΐδων

1775 ἀνθρώποις. ἤδη γὰρ ἐπὶ κλυτὰ πείραθ' ἰκάνω

ὑμετέρων καμάτων· ἐπεὶ οὐ νύ τις ὕμνιν ἄεθλος

αὗτις ἀπ' Αἰγίνηθεν ἀνερχομένοισιν ἐτύχθη,
οὔτ' ἀνέμων ἐριῶλαι ἐνέσταθεν· ἀλλὰ ἔκηλοι
γαῖαν Κεκροπίνην παρά τ' Αὐλίδα μετρήσαντες
1780 Εὐβοίης ἔντοσθεν Ὀπούντιά τ' ἄστεα Λοκρῶν
ἀσπασίως ἀκτὰς Παγασηίδας εἰσαπέβητε.

[1773] Be gracious, race of blessed chieftains! And may these songs year after year be sweeter to sing among men. For now have I come to the glorious end of your toils; for no adventure befell you as ye came home from Aegina, and no tempest of winds opposed you; but quietly did ye skirt the Cecropian land and Aulis inside of Euboea and the Opuntian cities of the Locrians, and gladly did ye step forth upon the beach of Pagasae.

The Biography



Kameiros, ancient city ruins, Rhodes

INTRODUCTION TO THE ARGONAUTICA AND APOLLONIUS RHODIUS by R. C. Seaton



Much has been written about the chronology of Alexandrian literature and the famous Library, founded by Ptolemy Soter, but the dates of the chief writers are still matters of conjecture. The birth of Apollonius Rhodius is placed by scholars at various times between 296 and 260 B.C., while the year of his death is equally uncertain. In fact, we have very little information on the subject. There are two “lives” of Apollonius in the Scholia, both derived from an earlier one which is lost. From these we learn that he was of Alexandria by birth, that he lived in the time of the Ptolemies, and was a pupil of Callimachus; that while still a youth he composed and recited in public his *Argonautica*, and that the poem was condemned, in consequence of which he retired to Rhodes; that there he revised his poem, recited it with great applause, and hence called himself a Rhodian. The second “life” adds: “Some say that he returned to Alexandria and again recited his poem with the utmost success, so that he was honoured with the libraries of the Museum and was buried with Callimachus.” The last sentence may be interpreted by the notice of Suidas, who informs us that Apollonius was a contemporary of Eratosthenes, Euphorion and Timarchus, in the time of Ptolemy Euergetes, and that he succeeded Eratosthenes in the headship of the Alexandrian Library. Suidas also informs us elsewhere that Aristophanes at the age of sixty-two succeeded Apollonius in this office. Many modern scholars deny the “bibliothecariate” of Apollonius for chronological reasons, and there is considerable difficulty about it. The date of Callimachus’ *Hymn to Apollo*, which closes with some lines (105–113) that are admittedly an allusion to Apollonius, may be put with much probability at 248 or 247 B.C. Apollonius must at that date have been at least twenty years old. Eratosthenes died 196–193 B.C. This would make Apollonius seventy-two to seventy-five when he succeeded Eratosthenes. This is not impossible, it is true, but it is difficult. But the difficulty is taken away if we assume with Ritschl that Eratosthenes resigned his office some years before his death, which allows us to put the birth of Apollonius at about 280, and would solve other difficulties. For instance, if the Librarians were buried within the precincts, it would account for the burial of Apollonius next to Callimachus — Eratosthenes being still alive. However that may be, it is rather arbitrary to take away the “bibliothecariate” of Apollonius, which is clearly asserted by Suidas, on account of chronological calculations which are themselves uncertain. Moreover, it is more probable that the words following “some say” in the second “life” are a remnant of the original life than a conjectural addition,

because the first "life" is evidently incomplete, nothing being said about the end of Apollonius' career.

The principal event in his life, so far as we know, was the quarrel with his master Callimachus, which was most probably the cause of his condemnation at Alexandria and departure to Rhodes. This quarrel appears to have arisen from differences of literary aims and taste, but, as literary differences often do, degenerated into the bitterest personal strife. There are references to the quarrel in the writings of both. Callimachus attacks Apollonius in the passage at the end of the *Hymn to Apollo*, already mentioned, also probably in some epigrams, but most of all in his *Ibis*, of which we have an imitation, or perhaps nearly a translation, in Ovid's poem of the same name. On the part of Apollonius there is a passage in the third book of the *Argonautica* (11. 927–947) which is of a polemical nature and stands out from the context, and the well-known savage epigram upon Callimachus. Various combinations have been attempted by scholars, notably by Couat, in his *Poésie Alexandrine*, to give a connected account of the quarrel, but we have not *data* sufficient to determine the order of the attacks, and replies, and counter-attacks. The *Ibis* has been thought to mark the termination of the feud on the curious ground that it was impossible for abuse to go further. It was an age when literary men were more inclined to comment on writings of the past than to produce original work. Literature was engaged in taking stock of itself. Homer was, of course, professedly admired by all, but more admired than imitated. Epic poetry was out of fashion and we find many epigrams of this period — some by Callimachus — directed against the "cyclic" poets, by whom were meant at that time those who were always dragging in conventional and commonplace epithets and phrases peculiar to epic poetry. Callimachus was in accordance with the spirit of the age when he proclaimed "a great book" to be "a great evil," and sought to confine poetical activity within the narrowest limits both of subject and space. Theocritus agreed with him, both in principle and practice. The chief characteristics of Alexandrianism are well summarized by Professor Robinson Ellis as follows: "Precision in form and metre, refinement in diction, a learning often degenerating into pedantry and obscurity, a resolute avoidance of everything commonplace in subject, sentiment or allusion." These traits are more prominent in Callimachus than in Apollonius, but they are certainly to be seen in the latter. He seems to have written the *Argonautica* out of bravado, to show that he *could* write an epic poem. But the influence of the age was too strong. Instead of the unity of an Epic we have merely a series of episodes, and it is the great beauty and power of one of these episodes that gives the poem its permanent value — the episode of the love of Jason and Medea. This occupies the greater part of the third book. The first and second books are taken up with the history of the voyage to Colchis, while the fourth book describes the return voyage. These portions constitute a metrical guide book, filled no doubt with many pleasing episodes, such as the rape of Hylas, the boxing match between Pollux and

Amycus, the account of Cyzicus, the account of the Amazons, the legend of Talos, but there is no unity running through the poem beyond that of the voyage itself.

The Tale of the Argonauts had been told often before in verse and prose, and many authors' names are given in the Scholia to Apollonius, but their works have perished. The best known earlier account that we have is that in Pindar's fourth Pythian ode, from which Apollonius has taken many details. The subject was one for an epic poem, for its unity might have been found in the working out of the expiation due for the crime of Athamas; but this motive is barely mentioned by our author.

As we have it, the motive of the voyage is the command of Pelias to bring back the golden fleece, and this command is based on Pelias' desire to destroy Jason, while the divine aid given to Jason results from the intention of Hera to punish Pelias for his neglect of the honour due to her. The learning of Apollonius is not deep but it is curious; his general sentiments are not according to the Alexandrian standard, for they are simple and obvious. In the mass of material from which he had to choose the difficulty was to know what to omit, and much skill is shewn in fusing into a tolerably harmonious whole conflicting mythological and historical details. He interweaves with his narrative local legends and the founding of cities, accounts of strange customs, descriptions of works of art, such as that of Ganymede and Eros playing with knucklebones, but prosaically calls himself back to the point from these pleasing digressions by such an expression as "but this would take me too far from my song." His business is the straightforward tale and nothing else. The astonishing geography of the fourth book reminds us of the interest of the age in that subject, stimulated no doubt by the researches of Eratosthenes and others.

The language is that of the conventional epic. Apollonius seems to have carefully studied Homeric glosses, and gives many examples of isolated uses, but his choice of words is by no means limited to Homer. He freely avails himself of Alexandrian words and late uses of Homeric words. Among his contemporaries Apollonius suffers from a comparison with Theocritus, who was a little his senior, but he was much admired by Roman writers who derived inspiration from the great classical writers of Greece by way of Alexandria. In fact Alexandria was a useful bridge between Athens and Rome. The *Argonautica* was translated by Varro Atacinus, copied by Ovid and Virgil, and minutely studied by Valerius Flaccus in his poem of the same name. Some of his finest passages have been appropriated and improved upon by Virgil by the divine right of superior genius. The subject of love had been treated in the romantic spirit before the time of Apollonius in writings that have perished, for instance, in those of Antimachus of Colophon, but the *Argonautica* is perhaps the first poem still extant in which the expression of this spirit is developed with elaboration. The Medea of Apollonius is the direct precursor of the Dido of Virgil, and it is the pathos and passion of the

fourth book of the Aeneid that keep alive many a passage of Apollonius.



Little is known about Apollonius' death. One source reports that he died in Rhodes, whilst a second records that he died after returning to Alexandria, stating that he was buried alongside Callimachus.